HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

FIFTEENTH REPORT, APPENDIX, PART X.

THE

MANUSCRIPTS

OF

SHREWSBURY AND COVENTRY CORPORATIONS; THE EARL OF RADNOR, SIR WALTER CORBET, BART., AND OTHERS.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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MUNICIPAL RECORDS

OF

SHREWSBURY.

The Corporation records of the ancient town of Shrewsbury have recently been the objects of unusual care and interest. For several years a local committee of clergy and laymen devoted themselves to the task of cleaning, sorting, and labelling an immense mass of papers which were found in utmost confusion and in most dirty condition, but which were then classified and placed in 75 tin boxes. Finally, a brief outline account of the work was printed, and Her Majesty's Historical Commissioners were invited to send an inspector to report upon the collection. The papers thus arranged come down to the year 1837, and, of course, include very many papers of ordinary character, quarter sessions' proceedings, tax assessments, and the like, not requiring examination, except for purely local purposes. But the exceptionally valuable character of the earlier records is seen in a series of gild-merchant rolls which begin in the time of King John, and in the bailiffs' accounts, beginning in that of Henry III., as well as in the series of Royal Charters and that of Subsidy Rolls. The registers of the proceedings of the Corporation are unfortunately very imperfect, and for all that relates to the Civil War and Commonwealth period, which it was hoped would be found to be specially illustrated, there is a blank, the register being lost. A portion of the records, particularly the bailiffs' accounts to the commencement of the 17th century, were carefully searched and largely used by Messrs. Owen and Blakeway in their excellent *History of Shrewsbury*, published in two quarto volumes in 1825, and their numerous extracts have, to avoid repetition, lessened the number of those which otherwise might have been given below. In the *Archæological Journal* for September 1894 there is a paper giving a general description of the records, by Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, M.A.

The documents are classed in the following Report under these heads :—

I. Royal Charters.
II. Subsidy Rolls.
III. Gild-merchant Rolls.
IV. Registers.
V. Bailiffs' Accounts.
VI. Trained Bands.
VII. Courts.
VIII. Grammar School.
IX. Miscellaneous.

I.—Royal Charters.

1. Charter of Richard I., granting the town to the burgesses at an annual rent of 40 marks, of which ten are in lieu of providing two hunting-horses ("fugatoribus"). Dated at Westminster, 11 November *an.* 1 [1189]. Seal lost. Witnesses, H[ugh Pudsey] bishop of Durham, Geoffrey Fitz-Peter, Hugh Bard[olf], Hugh Pantulf.

A very accurate facsimile is given in Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, I. 82.

2. John; confirming a (lost) charter of Henry II.; Farendon, 13 Apr. *an.* I. [1200]. Witn. William Marescall earl of Pembroke, Geoffrey Fitz-Peter earl of Essex, Hugh Bard[olf], William Briwerre, Hugh de Neoville, Symon de Pateshille. Seal lost.

Ibid. 83, but erroneously assigned, as well as the charter following, to A.D. 1199.

3. John; granting to the town the right of electing their provosts; Westm., 20 Apr. *an.* 1. Witn. the same, with the omission of Pateshille and addition of Robert de Turneham. Broken fragments of seal, in a leather bag attached by silk strings.

4. John; granting to the burgesses the hundred with the town, at a rent of 45 marks; together with many additional privileges, including a fair, and providing that "terre et tenementa tractentur per legem Bretoll[iæ] et legem baronye et legem Anglescherye"; Notyngeham, 24 Feb. *an.* 6 [1205]. Witn., J[ohn de Grey] bishop of Norwich, Geoffrey Fitz-Peter earl of Essex, Rann[ulf] earl of Chester, William earl of Salisbury, William earl de Ferrars, Roger Constable of Chester, Roger de Thoeny, William Briwerre, Robert de Veteri Ponte (Vipount), Hugh de Neville, Eustace de Vescy, Peter de Stokes, Symon de Pateshille, William de Cantilupe, Thomas de Ardintone. Broken fragments of seal in a bag.

Abstract, *ibid.* 86–9.

[John. Charters in *an.* 11 and 17: see *Miscell. Papers, infra*, 1526.]

5. Henry III.; establishing the merchant-gild, &c.; Westm. 20 March, *an.* 11 (1227). Witn., Peter [de Rupibus] bishop of Winchester, Joscelin bishop of Bath, Richard bishop of Sarum, Hubert de Burgh earl of Kent, Hugh de Neville, Ralph de Trubleville (*sic*), Ralph Fitz-Nicholas, Richard de Argenteom, Henry de Capella. Fragment of green seal. Of this there is a duplicate original.

Ibid., 100–1.

6. Henry III.; restricting the right of sale of fresh hides and unworked cloth to the burgesses; slightly mutilated; same date; witnesses the same; small fragment of seal.

Ibid., 102.

7. Henry III.; with respect to the execution of writs by sheriffs; at Feckenham, 10 Aug. *an.* 40 (1256); fragment of green seal. Witn., W[alter de Cantilupe] bishop of Worcester, John de Plessetis earl of Warwick, master Symon de Waltone, Robert Waleraund, Nicholas de Turri, Walkelin de Arderne, Ralph de Bakep[uz], Bartholomew le Bigot, William de St. Ermin, William Gernun.

Ibid., 120–1.

8. Henry III.; securing the goods of burgesses against seizure for debts of others; same date and witnesses; fragment of seal.

Ibid., 121–2.

9. Henry III. Writ to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury granting for seven years the customs upon articles brought in for sale, for repair of the town walls, in extension of a grant for three years made in the year preceding; Bruges, 22 Sept. *an.* 41 (1257).

10. [Henry III. Of a grant, in reward of the fidelity of the burgesses, of exemption from murage throughout the kingdom, and restricting wool-merchants from purchasing wool in the county except in the market towns, there is an office copy (certified by Robert Lemon) from the record in the Tower of London. Dated at Winchester, 22 Sept. *an.* 49 (1265)]. *Ibid.*, 129.

11. [Henry III. Similar copy of the grant of a fair, for three days at the feast of St. Clement. Shrewsbury, 22 Sept. *an.* 51 (1267).]

12. Edward I. Grant, "in auxilium pontis ville vocati le Whalshe-brugge qui dirutus est et confractus, ad grave dampnum et periculum hominum tam per pontem illum quam subtus eundem per aquam transeuntium," for three years of tolls to be levied on all articles brought into the town for sale, of which a long and minute table follows: Westm., 12 Feb. *an.* 12 (1284).

13. [Edward II. Office copy of a confirmation of the Charter of Henry III. in 1267, as above, granting a fair; Westm. 5 June, *an.* 2 (1309).]

14. Edward II. *Inspeximus* of the four Charters of Henry III., nos. 5–8 *supra;* Lughteburgh, 6 Feb. *an.* 13 (1320). Witn., W[alter Stapleton] bishop of Exeter, A[dam de Orleton] bishop of Hereford, Thomas earl of Norfolk, Adomar de Valence earl of Pembroke, Edmund earl of Arundel, Hugh le Despenser the elder, Bartholomew de Badelesmere, steward of the household. Half of the seal.

15. Edward II. *Inspeximus* of a charter of Henry III. embodying the privileges in the charter of John in 1205, no. 4 *supra*, dated at Westm., 10 March, *an.* 11, and of the three charters 6, 8, 10 *supra*. Date and witnesses same as in the preceding Charter. Greater part of the green seal remaining.

16. Edw. III. Grant of a fair for four days at the feast of St. Matthew in addition to the fair for three days granted by Hen. III., 20 Sept., *an.* 51, and that for three days at the feast of St. James, granted by Edw. II., 4 June, *an.* 2 (1309). Westm., 3 March, *an.* 1 (1327); part of green seal.

[17. Edw. III. Office copy of licence for the erection of corn and malt mills; Northampton, 12 May, *an.* 2 (1328).]

18. Edw. III. *Inspeximus*, in duplicate, of the charter of Hen. III. in 1256 (no. 7 *supra*), of the confirmation-charter by Edw. II. in 1320 (no. 15), and of the three charters of Hen. III., nos. 6, 8, 10. New Sarum, 5 Oct., *an.* 2 (1328). Both copies have the greater part of their respective green seals.

19. Edw. III. Confirmation-charter reciting the preceding *Inspeximus*, and providing that the burgesses shall not be hindered in the enjoyment of any of the privileges therein contained by reason of non-user. Westm., 10 March, *an.* 11 (1337). Fragment of green seal.

20. Edw. III. Charter, in duplicate, granted in parliament at the request of Richard earl of Arundel and other magnates, giving in addition

to the privileges conveyed in the charter of Hen. III. in 1256 (no. 7 *supra*) further rights with respect to trials of burgesses and the powers of the bailiffs. Westm., 4 May, *an.* 15 (1341). Fragments of the seals, green.

Owen and Blakeway, I. 162.

21. Edw. III. *Inspeximus* of the charter of Henry III., no. 8 *supra*. Westm., 5 March, *an.* 51 (1377). Fragment of white seal.

22. Rich. II. *Inspeximus* of a confirmation-charter by Edw. III. of the two charters of Hen. III., dated at Westm., 20 March, *an.* 11 (1327), and of Edward's own charter in 1341 *ut supra*. Westm., 17 Jan., *an.* 1 (1378). Part of green seal.

23. Rich. II. Repetition of the preceding *Inspeximus*, with a saving clause against loss by non-user; Westm., 22 Nov., *an.* 13 (1389). Fragment of green seal. The initial letter is finely illuminated, on a gold ground, and represents the king seated, with the queen kneeling before him. This would seem to imply that the charter was granted at her request.

24. Rich. II. Warrant, in French, to the Archbishop of York, as Chancellor, to prepare letters under the great seal granting to the burgesses the tolls on persons bringing merchandise, for the term of four years, to repair the walls, gates, and bridges, the latter being greatly injured and almost destroyed by floods of the Severn; a previous grant for three years being now determined. Rokyngham Castle, 4 June, *an.* 15 (1392).

25. Rich. II. Contemporary copy of the letters patent issued in pursuance of the preceding warrant, with particulars of the tolls. Notyngham, 20 June (1392).

26. Rich. II. Letters patent granting to the bailiffs and community of Shrewsbury, that whereas some of them are sometimes, contrary to their privileges, arrested in Wales for debts not due from them, they shall have power, in case persons so arrested are not on demand liberated, to arrest any persons coming to Shrewsbury from the same parts of Wales and detain them until satisfaction is made. Notyngham, 7 Feb. *an.* 19 (1396). Green seal, broken.

27. Hen. V. *Inspeximus* (for which 20*l.* were paid) of an *inspeximus* by Hen. IV. (dated at Westm., 1 June, *an.* 1, 1400) of the confirmation by Rich. II. in 1389 (no. 24 *supra*) of the grant in 1396 (*supra*, 27), and of the *inspeximus* of Edw. III. in 1377 (*supra*, 22); Westm., 28 Sept., *an.* 1 (1413). Fragment of green seal.

28. Hen. VI. [?]. Contemporary copy of a grant of the tolls for three years, for the repair of the fortifications and walls, to be laid out under the supervision of the abbot of the town or his deputy; with the usual table of tolls; Westm., 6 Nov., *an.* 7. (1428). The name of the official copyist, "Sturgeon" is subscribed.

29. Hen. VI. Contemporary copy of a grant of the tolls for five years for the repair of the fortifications and walls, to be laid out under the supervision of the abbot or his deputy, or of John Asshfeld, Esq.; with a table of the tolls; Oxford, 9 Oct., *an.* 17 [1438]. The name of the official scribe, "Sturgeon" is written in the margin at the foot.

Also, another copy of a similar grant for twelve years, dated at Westm. 15 March, *an.* 20 (1442), the money to be laid out under the abbot or John Asshfeld. Subscribed, "Stopyndone."

30. Hen. VI. Charter granting many additional privileges; goods and chattels of felons, enquiry into escheats, hearing of civil causes, the bailiffs to be justices of the peace, &c., Westm., 7 June, *an.* 23 (1444). The initial letter and border are illuminated. There is an office copy of this, certified by Rob. Lemon.

31. [Edw. IV. Office copy of *inspeximus* of the confirmation-charter of Rich. II., &c.; containing also a confirmation of a charter of Hen. VI., 12 Jan., *an.* 24, confirming his grant of the tolls for twelve years on 15 March, *an.* 20 (*supra*, 29); Westm., 7 May, *an.* 2 (1462).]

32. Edw. IV. Exemplification, at the desire of the bailiffs and burgesses of Shrewsbury, of two statutes passed in Parliament 2 Hen. IV. and 2 Hen. V. for repression of incursions and robberies by the Welsh in the counties adjoining the Marches; Westm., 1 June, *an.* 10 (1470). Great seal nearly perfect.

33. [Hen. VII. Office copy of charter remitting for the term of fifty years the sum of ten marks from the annual rent of 30*l.* payable to the Crown, in consideration of the poverty and decay of the town; exonerating the inhabitants also from payment of fifteenths and other taxes; Westm., 12 Dec., *an.* 1 (1485).]
Owen and Blakeway, I. 255.

34. Hen. VII.—New and lengthy charter to the town, extending the boundaries, exempting from taxes, &c.; on four membranes; Westm., 14 Dec., *an.* 11 (1495). Fragments of seal in a bag.
Ibid., 268–9.

35. Hen. VIII. Grant to the bailiffs and burgesses of all the liberties and privileges enjoyed by the abbots of the dissolved monastery; Westm., 26 Apr., *an.* 34 (1542). On two membranes. The initial letter bears a large portrait of the King (not, however, resembling him) on the throne, and the top line is illuminated with coats of arms, lions bearing flags, &c. Fragments of seal in a bag.
Ibid., 338.

36. Edw. VI. *Inspeximus* of the preceding grant of Hen. VIII.; Westm., 12 Dec., *an.* 1 (1547). Two membranes; the initial letter has an outline pen and ink portrait of the King. Half of the seal.

37. Edw. VI. *Inspeximus* of the charter of Hen. VII. in 1495; Westm., 26 Nov., *an.* 2 (1548). Four membranes; the initial letter has the outline pen and ink portrait of the King. Fragments of the seal in a bag.

38. Edw. VI. Foundation-charter of the Grammar School; Westm., 10 Feb., *an.* 6 (1552). Outline pen and ink portrait in the initial letter. Fragment of the seal.

39. Elizabeth. Charter of incorporation of the town and suburbs; Westm., 20 Apr., *an.* 28 (1586). Four membranes; outline pen and ink portrait in the initial letter. Seal perfect.
Owen and Blakeway, I. 381–3.

40. Charles I. Charter constituting a new corporation of a mayor, twenty-four aldermen and forty-eight assistants, coroner, recorder, &c.; Westm., 16 June, *an.* 14 (1638) Six membranes; in the initial letter is a good portrait of the King. Seal in a bag, broken.
Ibid., 407–9.

The opinion of counsel (Edw. Bearcroft) upon the interpretation of some of the clauses, dated Lincoln's Inn, 6 Jan. 1787.

41. Charles II. Copy made in the 18th cent., in a folio volume, of a charter granted 16 June, *an.* 14 (1662), confirming and extending the charter of Q. Eliz., &c.

42. Charles II. Charter nominating mayor, aldermen, common councilmen, &c. 6 July, *an.* 16 (1664). Engraved portrait. Never sealed.

Ibid., 487.

Copy of the surrender of the charter of 1662 to the King, 11 Oct. 1684.

43. James II. Charter of re-incorporation; Westm., 7 March, *an.* 1 [1685.] Two membranes; engraved portrait, and elegantly ornamented margins. Fragments of seal.

Ibid., 493–4.

44. William IV. Commission of the peace to the mayor and eight others; 17 Feb., *an.* 6 (1836). Seal in tin box.

45. William IV. Letters patent for the continuance of the separate court of quarter sessions; 23 Apr., *an.* 6 (1836). Seal in tin box.

II.—Subsidy Rolls.

Of these there is an unusually full series, from the end of the 13th century to the time of Queen Anne, commencing at an earlier date than any now in the Record Office. There are three undated rolls of Edw. I., being taxations of a sixth, (Nov. 1294) of a ninth (1297), and of a twentieth (1306). Two rolls are dated in Edward's 25th and 26th years, (1296–7, 1297–8), but these were not forthcoming at the time of my inspection, and appear to have been temporarily mislaid. There is also one in which the proportion is not specified, on two membranes, of which one bears an endorsement of the total as being 220*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.*, and the other 134*l.* 14*d.*; but it is possible that this is rather a municipal assessment than a regal. An assessment for a tenth ("R[egis] x^{am}") of the ward of the Castle Foregate and of the liberties belongs to the beginning of the 14th century, probably to the reign of Edward II. For that reign there is an assessment of a twenty-fifth (granted in 1309), which is very minute in its details of all personal property; a taxation of the liberties of the town at Easter in that year; a fifteenth for the town in 1313 ("Tallagium factum tempore r. E. fil. r. E. vi.") and of the liberties in the same year ("Taxacio libert. ville Salop. XV^{e} domino r. concesse, de anno r. r. Edwardi fil. r. Edwardi vij^{mo} incipiente"), on six numbered membranes; and a fifteenth in the ninth year (1316), in which 154 persons are taxed. For the reign of Edw. III. there is only one roll, that of a tenth in his tenth year (1336), and but one for Rich. II. That one, however, is specially interesting as being the taxation in 1380 for every person above the age of 14 which caused the insurrection of Wat Tyler, and as consequently giving the total of the population of the town above that age. It is headed, "Compotus Ric. de Graffton, Walteri de Brom. . . . ., Hug. Donfowe, et Johannis le Tyelere, collectorum subsidii domino Regi concessi in villa Salop *et libertate ejusdem* (struck out), videlicet de qualibet persona laica, homine et femina, etatis xiiij annorum iiij^{d}," and begins, "In primis, in eadem villa Salop et suburbiis ejusdem computantur strata et venelle xv., quorum nomina sunt subscripta, cum numero personarum commorantium in eisdem, mendicantibus absque fraude prout in commissione continetur

exceptis." The total is thus stated at the end: "Et sic in villa et libertate Salop computantur in totali summa tam de viris quam de feminis laicis etatis xiiij annorum, M^l M^l iiij^{xx} et iij persone, secundum computacionem ad C v^{xx}, de quibus quidem M^l M^l iiij^{xx} et iii personis dicti collectores r[eceperunt] de qualibet persona iiij^d, unde summa totalis recepta se extendit ad xxxiiij^{li} xiiij^s et iiij^d." The roll is endorsed with the names of the collectors in the outlying liberties, but not with their returns.* The reigns of Henry V. and VII. are blanks; for that of Henry VI. there are three or four rolls, and one for Edward IV., of a fifteenth in 1474–5; but from the time of Hen. VIII. onwards the series is very regular. The latter king's series begins with the account of a benevolence in 1522; "the names and summes of those persones that have made lone or prest of money to the King's grace the xith day of November in the xiiijth yere," &c. In the reigns of Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. there are returns of collections made for provision of the royal household. The ship-money accounts form a large file in 1635–9, and include an original letter of instructions signed by the Privy Council; and in 1644 there is a small tattered parcel of returns of the monthly assessment at 4*d.* in the pound levied for the king in the months of June to September. Some papers connected with this assessment will be found below among the *Miscellaneous Papers* under the same year.

III.—Gild-Merchant Rolls.

This series is remarkable as exhibiting the record of admissions to burgess-ship in the town from the year 1209 to 1510. The genealogical information afforded by them is important, as they give the names of parents and specify the children. For 1209, xi. Joh., there are two rolls. The first is headed, "Sanctus Spiritus assit nobis. De illis qui sunt in Gilda mercand. in burgo Salop., et quorum patres pridie non fuerunt in libertatibus Gilde, anno xi regni regis J., et quorum finis est v sol. iiij^d." Other headings of subdivisions are, "De illis qui intraverunt gildam. De forinsecis qui intraverunt gildam, et de fine eorum. Isti intraverunt ad ultimam assisam primo." The second roll is headed, "De Gilda mercand. burgi Salop. ad quartam assisam anno xi regni regis J. in festo Sancti Bartholomei. De illis quorum patres fuerunt in gilda, unde assisa de xxxij^d (*not as given in Blakeway*, xxij^d) apponitur, et pacaverunt iiij^d." This is endorsed with (3) another list headed, "De ultimis qui intraverunt assisam gilde primo anno iiij^o regni regis H. fil. regis J. in crastino Sancti Jacobi apostoli," (26 July, 1220). These earliest rolls are now in course of being printed in the *Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological Society* by Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, M.A.

4. 1232. "De forinsecis et aliis in gilda ultima intratis ad viij^{am} assisam in crastino Sanctæ Trinitatis anno r. r. H. fil. J. xvj."

5. 1239. "Rotulus de ghylda mercatorum burgo Salop. ad novam (*sic*, for "nonam"†) assisam. Primus dies sessionis fuit die Martis prox. post festum Sancti Dionisii anno r. r. H. xxiij^o."

6, 7. 1252. "Rotulus de illis qui quatuor denarios sunt pacaturi. Nomina Theynesmen"; twelve names. Then, "Rotulus de ghylda

* It is printed, with notes by Rev. G. W. D. Fletcher, in *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*, 2nd S., II. 17–28.

† *Nonam* and *novam* are written by a careless scribe indiscriminately; generally *novam*.

mercatorum in burgo Salopp. ad nonam assisam. Primus dies sessionis fuit dies Mercurii prox. post festum Sancti Barnabe apostoli anno r. r. H. fil. J. xxxvj°." (In the figures of the regnal year the first x is nearly obliterated, and the date has hence been sometimes taken as xxvi., but Blakeway read it correctly.) There is also another roll, "De forinsecis de ghylda mercantorum (*sic*) ad assisam nonam" on the same day, in which the regnal year is written in full, "tricesimo sexto."

8, 9. 1268. Two rolls "de forinsecis de gilda mercatoria ad assisam nonam," on St. Barnabas' day 52 Hen. III., of which the second has the sub-heading, "Isti subscripti sunt qui tunc primo finierunt."

10. Another short roll of foreigners, without date.

The preceding rolls are described in Owen and Blakeway's *History*, I. 102–5, with a few errors.

11, 12. Two rolls of the time of Hen. III., distinguishing the persons who paid 3*d.*, 4*d.*, and 7*d.* respectively. These are evidently burgess-rolls, but had been placed amongst those of the subsidies. Printed, with notes by Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, in *Trans. of Shr. Archæol. Soc.*, 2nd S., I. 29–52.

13. A curious very small roll of the same reign contains a list of names in sections divided by crosses, without any heading or explanation, except that one section with seven names is headed "*Masuns.*" The names are these: "Willelmus de Drayton, Rogerus de Farnecete, Rogerus le Hunte, Thomas de Helecete, Willelmus Alberburi, Water de Abbeton, Thomas de Teculwardin."

14–18. Five rolls *temp.* Edw. I., of which three belong to *an.* 9, 1281, and two to *an.* 32, 1304.

19–22. Edw. II. Four rolls of his twelfth year, 1319, at the f. of St. Jo. Bapt., of which two are "de forinsecis." The "Nomina Theynesmen" occur again here.

23. One very long roll contains the lists in various years from 12 Edw. II. to 21 Rich. II., 1318–1397.

24. At the f. of St. Laurence (10 Aug.) 28 Edw. III., 1354.

25. "De forinsecis," of the same date.

26. "Eleccio burgensium facta in anno r.r. Edw. tercii xlvi," 1372. The names of the new burgesses' sons are given.

27. "De gilda mercatoria, de forinsecis ad nonam assisam," beginning on Monday after Mich. Day, 46 Edw. III., and ending on Christmas Day, 47 Edw. III., extending thus from Mich. 1372 to Christmas 1373. A long roll.

28. At the f. of St. Margaret, 8 Rich. II., 1384.

29. "De speciali gilda," Thursday before Christmas Day, 21 Rich. II., 1397.

30. "De generali gilda," Thursday before Christmas Day, 6 Hen. IV., 1404.

31. "De generali gilda," Tuesday after Conv. of St. Paul, 9 Hen. IV., 1408. The first entry here is interesting as showing in the case of an honorary admission that the ill-will which at a later period existed between the men of Shrewsbury and of Oswestry had not then arisen:

"Johannes Wele, capitaneus d'Osewestre, pro amore et bono auxilio suo burgensibus ville et communitati ac libertati ejusdem ville habitis et imposterum habendis."

32. "De generali gilda," Monday after f. of All SS., 14 Hen. IV., 1412.

33. "Burgenses facti tempore Rogeri Corbet et Johannis Perle"; *scil.* 1417–8. A very short roll.

34, 35. Thursday before f. of St. Denis M., 29 Hen. VI., 1450. Two rolls; on the second is added the list made on Monday, the vigil of St. Peter ad Vinc., 31 July, 30 Hen. VI., 1452; entered "per Johannem Phelypps."

36. A roll containing three admissions at a session on the Monday next after SS. Phil. and James, 16 Hen. VII., 1501, and six at sessions on several days in Jan., 19 Hen. VII., 1504.

37. A roll with 13 admissions on 1 Oct. 2 Hen. VIII., 1510, of which the first is that of "Robertus Sutton, alias dictus Robertus Dudley, armiger, filius Edmundi Dudley de Dudley in com. Stafford, militis."

From this date up to 1863 the admissions are found in the Assembly Books, and in several separate volumes, one of which extends from 1463 to 1758. There is a modern alphabetical index of names.

In 1632 there is a draft on paper of an agreement by the bailiffs that the free men and women of the craft of Turners shall be hereafter (as hitherto understood to be) free of the crafts of Bowyers, Fletchers, Cowpers, Stringers, Joiners, Feltmakers, and Haberdashers.

There is a parcel of petitions to the bailiffs, in number 14, with one to the Council of the Marches, extending from the end of the fifteenth century to the beginning of the seventeenth, which relate to the companies of Weavers, Bakers, Tailors, Shoemakers, Saddlers, Joiners, and Butchers. Amongst these the following may be specially noted:—

From the Shermen, otherwise called Clothworkers, praying that certain reformed ordinances, which they have had drawn by learned counsel, may be enacted, to prevent the ruin of their trade; *temp.* Jas. I.

From the Saddlers and Glasiers, complaining that, whereas the Curriers have always been freemen of their Company, certain young men now refuse to take out their freedom.

From Gyllem Wisbeche and others, joiners, complaining that Maderne Wisbecke "namynge hymself doctor of Physike" and Griffith ap Madock, wardens of their craft, admit carpenters into it; with the reply of the said Wardens annexed. For an account of a subscription made for the relief of Dr. Wisbeche in 1574, see under that date in the notes from the Registers *infra*.

Several other petitions relating to various companies will be found among the *Miscellaneous Papers*.

IV.—Municipal Registers.

I. The first record of *Acta* is contained in a paper volume in folio, called Liber A., bound in thick oak boards, and consisting originally of about 112 leaves, but some of these are now wanting, and others are much mutilated. Its period extends from the latter part of the reign of Edward III. to that of Henry VII., and the contents are of a very miscellaneous character, and are not in chronological order. The following entries will give an idea of their nature.

1. "Ordinacio processcionis artificum ville Salopie in festo Corporis Christi." The companies were in the following order: Molendinarii, Pistores, Piscatores, Coci, Carnifices, Barcarii (*Tanners*), Cordewenarii, Fabri, Cellarii, Carpentarii, Flechers Cowpers and Bowers, Textores, [T]onsarii cum Barbitonsoribus, [Ci]rotecarii, [Sci]ssores. The name of one other company has been cut off.* f. 1.

On the same leaf is a list of the villages and hamlets included in the liberties of the town.

2. Ordinance, in French, of the gild merchant relating to the cordwainers and tanners; 1389. f. 1b.

3. Elections of bailiffs, coroners, and other officers. 1389–1508. ff. 1b, 9b–31b, 104b.

3. Enrolments of miscellaneous deeds and bonds; 1350–1506. ff. 1*–10, 32–37, 48b, 67, 69b, 76a, b, 78–83b, 87–8, 92b, 103b, 105b, 108, 112.

4. Ordinances regulating trade; 1502. f. 1*b.

5. Composition in 1381 for the government of the town; Fr. f. 2.
Transl. in Owen and Blakeway, I. 169.

6. Inventory of goods bequeathed by Cecilia late wife of Rich. Grafton to Cecilia wife of John Botonere of Coventry; 1404. f. 3. (Other inventories are at f. 77b.)

7. Letter to the King's Commissioners for the county pleading exoneration from taxes; 1491. f. 3b.
Ibid., 259.

8. List of plate received by Will. Pontysbury, bailiff, from Roger Mountgomery, 10 Oct. 1494, of the goods of four persons, being three standing cups, a saltcellar and two "litle masers"; *pinned to* f. 28b.

9. Articles for the government of the craft of weavers; 1450. f. 34.

10. Entries of recognizances under the statute merchant: 1372–1551. ff. 38–48, 49b–66b.

11. Lists of aldermen and assistants, *c.* 1502–5. ff. 68b–9.

12. Order that corn and malt shall only be sold publicly in the market; if sold privately, only in the form of bread and ale. f. 70.

13. Ordinance made by the Council of the Marches for the good government of the town; 10 Apr. 18 Edw. IV., 1478. *ibid.*
Owen and Blakeway, I., 231–2.

14. List of persons present at the sealing of a composition with the abbey of St. Peter, on the morrow of the Conv. of St. Paul, 26 Jan. 1513. f. 71b.

15. Ordinances made for the good rule and governance of the craft of carpenters and tylers, the Friday after the Nativ. of our Lord, 28 Hen. VI. (26 Dec. 1449). f. 72b.

16. Ordinance for the settling of disputes between members of different crafts and for enforcing obedience to the bailiffs; not dated. f. 74.

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* Probably "Pannarii." Other companies in the town were the "Vintenarii," "Alutarii," "Merceri," and "Petiliarii."

17. Two orders "touchant l'office des seriantz de la ville"; the second dated 25 Jan. 2 Hen. V. (1415). ff. 74b, 109b.

18. Privy seal warrant from Hen. IV. exempting Thomas Skynner for life from serving on juries; 3 Aug. *an.* 9, 1408. *Ibid.*

19. Exemplification by Rich. II. of a passage "in libro de Domesday," under the title of the land of Earl Roger, relating to the manor of Ford; 20 Nov. *an.* 9, 1385. f. 77.

20. Will of Richard Kent; Monday after the f. of St. Barnabas (16 June) 1399. *Ibid.*

21. Conveyance from Katherine Bonell, daughter of Richard Bonell, widow, to King Edw. IV. and Degory Watur, draper, of tenements, rent, &c. in the street called Mardevole, "ad sustentacionem Christi pauperum commorancium in domibus eleemosinariis de fundacione Regis predicti in cimiterio ecclesie beate Marie;" 8 Apr. 1464. f. 78b.

Mention occurs here of one John Knight as Master of the Gild of the Holy Trinity of the mystery of Pannars.

22. "Ordinaunce made touchyng the taske" *i.e.* tax, "of the toun of Shrosbury," made at a common hall, 11 Dec. 1418, for better assessment than has hitherto been made by the "quillours" for the King. f. 84.

23. Ordinances for the good rule and governance of the crafts of Flechers, Cowpers and Bowers, in which each man has hitherto used "to governe hym aftere his owne lust in gret hurt and hynderynge and oppressynge of the forseyde craftes"; Tuesday after the f. of the Nativ. of our Lady, 27 Hen. VI. (10 Sept. 1448). f. 84b.

24. Agreement between the preceding crafts on the one part and that of the Carpenters on the other, as to the order in the procession on Corpus Christi day of their banner, wax, and alderman respectively; Sunday before Corp. Chr., 1 Edw. IV. (4 June 1461). f. 86.

25. Ordinances for the governance of the craft of Vintners, hitherto accustomed to rule themselves after their own free will and lust; Thursday after the f. of St Michael, 14 Hen. IV. (6 Oct. 1412). f. 86b.

26. Ordinances for the craft of Tailors and Skinners; not dated. f. 88b.

27. Orders forbidding the buying or bringing in by any draper or other person of any Welsh cloth; 12 Apr. 10 Edw. IV. (1470). f. 89b.

28. Orders restraining for one year buying and selling in any towns in Wales or in the county of Salop, except at common fairs, by the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, in order to renew the decayed trade of the town, with other regulations; 17 Jan. 15 Hen. VII. (1500). f. 91.

Two of the orders are as follows:—

"Item, it is assented that all londs, lesons and pastures within the frauncheis of the seyd towne that be not sowen with corne yerly, shall lye open and be comyne pasture, to the relief of the pore people, from Myghelmas tyll Candylmas, as it hath ben accustomed.

"Item, it is ordeigned that thenhabitants of the seyd towne shall curtesly entrete all straungers that shall resort to the seyd towne and riztuesly demeane theym in byyng and sellyng, and yf eny of thenhabitants be complayned vppon for the contrary demeanure and by examynacion so proved, to be grevously puneshed."

29. Admissions of burgesses to the gild merchant; Jan., 19 Hen. VII. (1504)—Dec., 21 Hen. VII. (1505); 11, 12, 16 Hen. VII. (1496, 1501); *c.* 29-30 Hen. VI. (1450-2); 5 Edw. IV. (1465); 28 Hen. VI. (1449); 6, 8 Edw. IV. (1466-8); 13, 15 Edw. IV. (1473, 1476); 1, 7, 9 Hen. VII. (1486, 1492-3); 13 Hen. VII. (1498); 21 Edw. IV. (1482) &c. ff. 98-107^{b}.

30. Oaths of the several officers of the town; ff. 100^{b}-101, 104^{b}.

31. Admission of Robert Bromley as recorder in 1508. f. 108.

32. Will of Thomas de la Clyve, clerk and burgess, containing many legacies; 6 Nov. 1336. f. 109.

Lying loose in the volume is a torn paper containing a representation made to the bailiffs and council in 1529 by the burgesses and commonalty "of the new fraunches," for the reformation of grievances.

II. This bound volume is followed by a series of four books, now stitched in brown paper covers, containing the record of the assembly of the Common Council (called "Assemblacio* Communis Consilii") from 7 Oct., 24 Hen. VII. (1507) to March, 31 Hen. VIII. (1540), but the years 1512-1520 are wanting.† They often afford little more than the lists of names of the persons present, lists of the gilds making annual payments, admissions of burgesses, and elections. Some original petitions and memoranda are occasionally pinned in the books.

1510, 8 March, 1 Hen. VIII. "Consilium precedens *aggreati* sunt quod si forte aliqua magna et periculosa affria pacis aut insurreccio riotosa facta [sit]," then all the inhabitants shall be bound to assist the bailiffs.

1525-6, 17 Hen. VIII. Statement of journeys made by Richard Atkys to London and other places on the business of the town, in some dispute with Worcester, "as yet unrewardyt for his labour." Four pounds are ordered on 12 Oct. 1526 to be paid to him. He is again employed afterwards.

1534, 16 Oct. Agreed that £20 be paid to the burgesses of parliament out of the common treasury.

1535, 13 Oct., 27 Hen. VIII. "They be aggreed that provision shalbe provyded; an oxe, a couple or ii of swannes, a dossen capones, a couple off calves, a hoggeshed of wyne." This (as appears from Owen's and Blakeway's *Hist.* I. 317) was for the entertainment of the dukes of Richmond, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

1537, 26 Apr., 29 Hen. VIII. The waits hired for the year following, to have such livery as heretofore hath been used.

1537, 15 June, 29 Hen. VIII. A letter to be sent to Mr. Robert Dudley, burgess in parliament, to stay his suit against the bailiffs concerning the writs which he brought for his wages.

——18 June. Order to prepare for reception of the Commissioners of the Marches. (Owen and Blakeway, I. 321.)

—31 July. Mr. Newton's house to be bought for the Lord President.

1540, 9 Jan., 31 Hen. VIII. "They be aggreed that there shalbe suyte made unto the Kynge and his Counsell, by mediacion of my Lord President and Mr. Justice that the Abbey may stand and remayne, to receyve the prince's grace or any other nobilite of the realme that shall resorte to this towne, and also concernyng the franches called the

* This word is usually written in a wrongly contracted form as "Assiliaco," but when written at length is "Assemblacō," and even "Assumulacō."

† The elections in these years are, however, found in the book of admissions of burgesses marked B.

Abbey franches in maner and forme as the same is now used, to be had and obteyned to this towne, to be used as the other suburbes be."

—— 29 Jan. A reformation to be sought at London of the wrongful and excessive toll taken at Oswestry. (Further orders about this matter in March.)

III.—The stitched parcels are followed by a thick volume, bound in parchment (of which the flyleaves are fragments of a MS. breviary, doubtless from one of the destroyed monasteries) containing 397 leaves, and extending from 28 March 1553 to 5 Feb. 1584. Some entries relating to the reign of Philip and Mary, with many for the earlier years of Elizabeth, follow the 21st year of the latter; apparently from the business of the Court of Aldermen and assistants and that of the Common Council being entered separately.

1553. The news of the King's death on 6 July must have reached the town tardily, for the 12th of July is said to be in the 7th year of King Edward (or else the uncertainty as to his successor may have made the Town Clerk judge it safest to retain his name), when order was made that six householders from each ward should watch the towngates, with one of the aldermen or common-councilmen each night in turn as captain. Even the 23rd July is said to be in 7 Edw. VI., when it is ordered that 24 men should be in readiness to serve the King's grace if needful, according to the accustomed old use and ordinance; but here "king" has been struck out and "quene" substituted.

——, 29 Sept. Ordered that no burgess living outside the town, and not contributing to its charges, shall have any voice in the election of burgesses for Parliament; and that Mr. Reignold Corbet, recorder, shall be one of the burgesses for Parliament so long as he is recorder, if he will take it upon him, "for that it ys supposed to be incident to his office of recordarshipp." f. 5^{b}.

——, 4 Oct. Suit to be made for the uniting of the East "Foriett" and the site of the monastery to the liberties of the town. f. 6.

——, 30 Oct. The recorder's opinion to be taken as to the lawfulness of electing any person who may be abroad for a burgess of parliament, and whether any person may lawfully "labour" any burgess, to gain his good will. f. 11.

1554, 7 Nov. T. Mytton and George Lye elected burgesses for parliament. f. 234^{b}.

1555, 6 Aug., 19 Sept. Orders respecting agreement with Mr. John Richemund for setting forward the conduit and bringing water to the town. ff. 14, 235. Further orders in 1557, ff. 23^{b}, 24^{b}; 28 March, 20 May, 21 June, 27 Dec. 1567, ff. 99, 92, 264, 93.

——, 4 Oct. Nicholas Pursell and Reignold Corbett, esquires, elected burgesses for parliament. f. 236.

1556, 16 May. The bailiffs to set forward the stage play this next Whitsontide for the worship of the town, and not to disburse above £5 about the furniture of the play. f. 18^{b}.

——, 31 Oct. The bailiffs or others "to heare and bringe furth a honest able and discreate person which will and can serve the office and service of a head scolemaister of the Frescole, and that shalbe allowed and thought meate . . . . by the aldermen and counsaile"; and

the bailiffs are then to "avoyd John Eyton now scolem^{r} gyvinge hym one halfe yere's warnynge," and that he shall have for his stipend and wages from Michaelmas last not above £14 by the year.

1557. 23 Jan. The day bell to be "rongen" throughout the whole year at St. Julian's at 4 o'cl. f. 239.

——, 18 June. "Sessours" appointed for levying of the fee of Mr. Thomas Mytton, late burgess of parliament, being £8 13. f. 22^{b}.

1558, 14 Jan. Nich. Pursell and George Lye elected burgesses of parliament. No person to labour, or cause or procure any labour to be made, to be burgess before the writ be read to the commons then assembled for election, [or else to be excluded from election.] f. 241.

——, 10 June. Order of the millers that no corn be ground for any man except they have also the grinding of his malt. f. 27.

——, 15 Oct. Roger Lewys, alderman, fined 6*s.* 8*d.* for making request to the bailiffs on behalf of one Thomas Clerke now remaining in ward for misdemeanour. f. 28.

——, 9 Nov. On account of the terrible fires that have happened of late within the town, by occasion of a great number of faggots of gorse and broom being piled and kept within or near houses, it is ordered that no baker keep in his house, or within 60 yards of any house, more than twenty such faggots, and no other person more than six. f. 29.

1559, 7 Aug. Agreed that the goods, stock, money and jewels of the four parish churches within the town shall be utterly employed, converted, and put to the use of the poor only from henceforth. f. 33^{b}.

——, 27 Dec. Mr. Justice John Frogmorton, *alias* Throgmorton, to be chosen recorder in place of R. Corbet. f. 38^{b}. Formally elected 16 Aug. 1560, f. 42^{b}. Patent sealed 4 Aug. 1562, f. 54^{b}.

1560, 26 March. Order for the furniture of 48 able men presently appointed to the Queen's service northward. f. 40^{b}.

1560, 5 July. Order by the Council of the Marches in a suit heard before them upon a claim for an annual payment of 40*s.* from two pastures called Cow Leasow and New Land, part of the grange of Attincham in the county of Salop, and late parcel of the possessions of the abbey of Lilleshall, bequeathed by Alice Hosyer (the plaintiff's mother, to whom he was executor) to the poor folk of the Almshouse of St. Mary and St. Chad in Shrewsbury. f. 390. Followed by original receipts for quarterly payments from 10 Oct. 1568 to 7 Apr. 1571. ff. 392^{b}, 393^{b}.

1561, 21 June. Thomas Assheton with one other learned schoolmaster to enter [upon the School] at this Midsummer, and for stipend, until certain leases be expired, to have 40*l.*, and for an usher 8*l.*; and when the leases fall in, Mr. Assheton, then finding another schoolmaster and usher, to have a patent of all the tithes belonging to the School, paying 8*s.* annually to the Queen for the chief rent, and keeping the schoolhouse in repair. f. 45^{b}. Further order about the tithes, 24 June. ff. 46, 243^{b}.

1562, 24 Nov. A collection to be made, partly "wherewith the sergyantes may be recompensed yn the stydde of the offerings they had yn churches." f. 57.

1562, 22 Dec. Robert Ireland, esq., and Richard Pursell, gent., burgesses for parliament. f. 249.

1563, 26 March. The house wherein the Council of the Marches lie when they come to Shrewsbury let to the Lord Stafford, but reserving the use for the Council and the justices of assize. f. 60.

——, *not dated.* Richard Hygons sent to London to endeavour the discharge of the town from the pressing of 36 soldiers. f. 61b.

——, 6 April. Sessors appointed to levy 30*l.* 14*s.* for the fee of George Leyghe, several times burgess for parliament. f. 249b.

——, 24 July. Wine and horse-meat to be provided for the Lord President of the Marches on his coming to the town. f. 62. Other orders, 18 Oct. 1567, f. 97; 1 Aug. 1568, f. 103; &c.

——, 16 Sept. Order about the refunding of 33*l.* collected for 21 soldiers who were impressed to go to Newhaven, but are returned. f. 63. Further order, 5 Dec. 1564. f. 74.

Not dated. Agreed that a proclamation be fixed upon the gates of the town, that if any inhabitant go to the city of London or any other place where the plague doth remain that he shall not return, or come within four miles of any part of the town or franchise, before two months be fully ended after his being there, and that no one shall receive any lodger, or take in any wares, apparel, or household stuff, from any place where the plague remains, upon pain of disfranchisement. f. 65b.

1567, *not dated.* Levy for three soldiers to serve in Ireland. f. 91b.

——, 22 Aug. Roger Lewys, *alias* Pope, degraded from his "room of aldermanship, for causes reasonable." f. 265.

1568, 8 Jan. Ordered that Mr. Asheton shall have the setting of the living appertaining to the Free School, when the leases are expired, according to his petition.

Of this petition a copy, attested by Adam Mitton, the town clerk, is subjoined, in which Asheton desires to be allowed to "set" the property as he thinks good, his devise being allowed under the common seal when he has first been sworn not to alienate one penny from the use of the School, but that all shall be employed for the discharging the wages of the Schoolmaster and the reparations of the School, "which in few years will be no little thing," and for the sustentation of the children going from the School to Oxford and Cambridge, an account being yearly made to the bailiffs, aldermen, and common council. f. 266. 8 Oct. Further order, allowing the same, and specifying the tithes. ff. 110, 111.

1568, 26 Feb. On a bill of complaint from the Carpenters and the answer of the Joiners, it is ordered that the Joiners be made of the company of the Bowyers, Fletchers, and Cow[p]ars. f. 100.

——, 12 Aug. Decree of arbitration by the Lord President and Council of the Marches for the settlement of great disputes relative to the elections in the Corporation. To this the autograph signatures of all the members are attached. ff. 106-8.

——, 1 Oct. Order (with eleven signatures) respecting the disputed election of John Ap Owen as alderman. f. 109.

1569, 26 May. Ordered that every one who has been a bailiff shall wear his scarlet gown on Whitsunday, the Sunday after election day, Allhallows day, Christmas day, New Year's day, Twelfth day, Candle-

mas day, and Easter day, upon pain of 6*s*. 8*d*., and that all aldermen and common councilmen shall be ready in the street to wait upon the bailiffs on those days at one o'cl., upon pain for the former of 6*s*. 8*d*. and for the latter of 3*s*. 4*d*. f. 119[b].

——, 9 July. Bequest to the town of 200*l*. by Robert Allen. f. 122[b].

——, 7 Sept. The bailiffs, or their deputies, to wear on every Sunday, holyday, court day and fair day, and also at such time as they welcome any man of honour and worship coming to the town, a velvet tippet whereby they may be known, upon pain, on default, of 3*s*. 7*d*., and also to have an able man to wait upon him with a bill, who shall be called by the name of a bill-bearer. f. 123[b].

——, 5 Oct. Every alderman within three months after his election shall buy and wear a scarlet gown at such times as are limited, for the worship of the town, and every bailiff shall buy and wear a scarlet gown both for himself and his wife. f. 124.

——, 5 Nov. A good and perfect survey to be made of all encroachments without license, and of all stoppages of ways and lanes. f. 125.

1570, 18 March. A certain chapel called St. Nicholas Chapel, with a parcel of ground adjoining, in a street called the High Pavement, to be let to Richard Onslowe (Attorney of the Court of Wards) at the yearly rent of 2*s*. 6*d*. f. 128. Confirmed 8 July. ff. 130, 272.

——, 19 April. The six *Sessors* "now commonlye called *Sytters*." f. 272[b].

——, 18 June. Orders made by the Council of the Marches in a case heard before them at Shrewsbury between some of the shearmen and certain drapers, concerning the dressing of Welsh cloths called Welsh cottons, &c. f. 385. See *infra*, 8 Nov. 1571.

——, 8 July. The survey to be begun upon the 19th of this month. f. 130.

——, (8 July). Lease to be granted to three persons for ten years of a certain pasture called "Behind the walles, exceptinge the Quarrell where the plases [*plaies* *] have bine accustomyd to be usyd," on condition that they bring by a lead conduit the water or spring called "Brodwalle" to the High Cross, there to remain in a cistern of freestone in such sort as may have continuance. f. 272. Further order about the conduit, 21 June, 1571. f. 274[b]. Other orders, 1573. ff. 165[b], 166[b].

——, 14 Sept. Lease to Rich. Onslowe of a piece of ground whereon the smith's forge stands adjoining the Chapel of St. Nicholas, and also a void piece of ground between the forge and a tenement called Knight's Place, at a rent of 3*s*. 4*d*. instead of 2*s*. 6*d*., and "agreeinge with the poore man." f. 273.

1571, 23 April. At the request of the Council of the Marches, 6*l*. 13*s*. 4*d*. granted to Serjeant Bodyley, serjeant-at-arms before the Council, in recompence of his good service in the Queen's wars. f. 138b.

A certificate to be made "unto the Parlyament house for the dyssolvinge of one braunshe of a statute [*an*. 8. concerning drapers] concernyng that all the burgesses of this towne and liberties myght be as fre as any other person of this realme to bye Walshe clothes in the towne of Oswestrye or elswhere out of this towne and fraunches, and so to carrye

* *See infra*, in the Bailiffs' Accounts for 1515–16.

the same to the cytie of London or to any other place at there pleasure, as they have bene before thys tyme accustomed." f. 139. 1572, 24 April. The commonalty moved to agree to the "certificate" for the repeal of the statute, which is carried by a majority. ff. 153b, 277, 277b.

1571, 31 Oct. The town to have a lease from Rich. Onslowe for 60 years of the house commonly called "the Counsaile house," with the Chapel, paying yearly 53*s.* 4*d.* f. 146.

——, 8 Nov. Proceedings at Hereford before the Council of the Marches in a suit between the shearmen and drapers of Shrewsbury, with articles of agreement thereupon. f. 388.

——, 20 Dec. Payment of charges for obtaining the grant of the Queen's Majesty concerning the Free School. f. 276.

1572, 29 Sept. Two aldermen displaced for not being continual dwellers. f. 158^{b}.

1573, 10 Feb. The arch of the Welsh bridge, commonly called the draw-bridge, to be made up either with free stone or timber. f. 166.

——, 26 March. Christopher Hanckehurst, clerk, to have a yearly stipend of £5. f. 282. 30 Oct. In consideration of his travail and service in the preaching and administration of God's word hereafter to be done as he heretofore hath done, to have an annual stipend or fee of 5*l.* in augmentation of his living, until he be promoted to some better living. f. 181^{b}.

——, 3 April. Ordinance respecting election of aldermen. f. 168^{b}.

1574, 26 April. Agreement that Maderne Wysebecke shall, in consideration of his painful travail and pains taken with the inhabitants, have a yearly annuity according to promises of contributions made by the aldermen, &c., severally. A petition lies loose in the volume from Maderne Wysebecke, physician, setting forth that he and his wife have lived in the town for 22 years, and to the best of their powers and cunning have spent their time in such art and science as is well known, and in giving their advice to such patients as have required it of them, as well to the poor as to the rich, and in especial to the poor, they have sought little or nothing at all. Now being somewhat in age, and not so well able to travail for the getting of his and her living as before, but willing here still to remain to their best endeavour as before, and being charged with rents, and also greatly charged in buying of books for better knowledge and learning, which is a dead stock, they pray for some annuity, for God's love. The petition is endorsed with a list of subscriptions, amounting to 22*s.* from 28 persons. ff. 187–8.

——, 14 July. "Agreed that the occupation of millners shalbe maynteyned as an occupation, as they have bine accustomed, accordinge to there composition, in all things lawfull." f. 189^{b}.

——, 26 [*and* 29 *interlined**] July. Eleven persons appointed together with the bailiffs to peruse the orders of the Free School, and to make relation what they think thereof, and if they doubt of anything, then to take the advice of Mr. Prince. f. 190.

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* Occasional alterations of date appear to have been caused by the town clerk's writing out beforehand under the days on which the meetings were supposed to be going to be held, the list of names of those entitled to be present, and then by correcting the date when the days were altered.

1577, 15 Aug. Ordered that whereas there is a place set up in the High Street near the "Sexstrye" in the freehold of Mr. Thomas Mackworth, for the conduit ("conducte") to run there, it shall not remain but presently be pulled down, as being set up without the licence of the bailiffs and commons. f. 191.

——, 13 Oct. 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* given to William Croft, gent., at the request of the President of the Council of the Marches, in consideration of his great losses; two new burgesses to be admitted in order to provide the money, and the surplus of their payments to be applied to the boarding and finishing of "the newe house." f. 192[b].

——, 6 Nov. Mr. Hawkhurst to have 5*l.* more of yearly stipend until such time as better provision may be made for him. f. 193[b].

——, 13 Dec. Order, signed by Robert Pigott, Arthur Maynwaring, E. Leighton, and Robert Nedham that the town of Salop furnish six armed men, viz., two harquebusiers, armed with burgonett, sword, dagger, and other necessaries, one pikeman and two billmen, armed with corslets, swords, and daggers, &c., and one bowman, with "skolle," bow and arrows, sword, dagger, &c. An acknowledgment by George Higgens, esq., one of the bailiffs, on 14 Dec. that he has received from Sir Andrew Corbet, knt., the following parcels of armour towards the furnishing of the six men, viz., three corslets complete, whereof one with pike and two with halberds, two calivers complete, with their furniture, with flasks, touchboxes, and two "murreyns," with one skull for a bowman. *pinned to* f. 195[b].

1575, 12 Feb. The arch of the Welsh bridge to be repaired. f. 195[b].

——, 3 June. Ordered that no business be entered upon at any meeting until the minutes of the last meeting have been read. f. 200.

——, 17 July. Five marks to be given to Mr. Churchyard for his pains taken in setting forth the show against the Queen's coming, being sent hither by the Lord President. f. 203[b].

1576, 14 March. The walls, bridges, towers, and council-house to be repaired. f. 207. Again on 6 May, 1577. f. 213[b].

——, 12 Oct. The bailiffs who shall henceforth have the disbursing of the legacy of Robert Allen, alderman, deceased, shall provide sureties for the same. f. 211. Further order 16 Aug. 1577, f. 215.

——, Country bakers, not being free with the bakers, to be restrained from selling bread within the town, provided that the town bakers serve the inhabitants according to their promise made in their petition, and according to the price of corn from time to time. f. 211[b].

——, 9 Nov. Mrs. Hawkhurst to have 10*l.* in discharge of the fee due to her husband in his lifetime. f. 290[b].

——, 13 Nov. (7 Dec. *interlined*). Order respecting the levying of a cess towards the relief of the diseased. f. 212[b].

1577, 6 May. The book made for the benevolence towards the maintenance of a preacher to be looked up, and they that were appointed for that purpose shall take some pains for the finishing thereof, and thereupon to have the same collected for the good purpose it is given for. f. 214.

——, 16 Aug. Whereas it is requisite to have a court kept weekly, letters to be written to Mr. Thomas Owen for his advice herein. f. 215[b].

1574, 17 Aug. Edward Clark, butcher, to be "disgrated" of his burgesship for the disorder and misusage that he hath committed against Mr. bailiff Dawes. f. 291[b].

1578, 9 May (22 June *interlined*). Warning to be given to the aldermen and common councillors to assemble on 1 July for the displacing of such of the aldermen and councillors as are to be displaced for their "non resyancie" (non-residence), as also for defaults that shall seem reasonable cause. f. 221. (There is no entry of any business done on 1 July although a meeting appears to have been held.)

The bailiffs shall enter upon the castle-gates and prisoners, and "expulse" all the sheriff's prisoners, and take the keys into their possession, within three days after the next assize; and no sheriff shall hereafter have or keep any prisoners within the said gates and prisons at any time. *Ibid.*

The bailiffs shall take advice of Mr. Prince, or some one that is learned, what is the best course for suppressing the "inmattes," idle persons, drunkards, and others that, being men of occupations, give themselves to idleness, drunkenness, and all disorders. f. 221[b].

——, 19 Aug. Robert Prebell, free-mason, lately in work with Edmund Cornwall, esq., offers to take in hand a piece of work for the covering of the fountain or cistern of the "conduct" at the end of the Fish Street, and the little conduit at the Wyld Cope, with free stone according to a plat or pattern by him now shewed. But forasmuch as he is a mere stranger and unknown to the bailiffs, and cannot, being a stranger, find the sureties they require, he offers to take the work in hand, and finish it before 20 Oct. next at the furthest, for the sum of 20*l.*; and for the payment of his workmen to take but twenty marks, after xxxiij[s] iiij[d] a week, until the work be finished, and upon the finishing to receive the residue, being twenty nobles; and enters into covenants for performance. f. 223.

——, 25 Aug. A letter read from Mr. Robert Corbett for the granting of the town's interest in the Council House; he is to be informed of the state thereof. f. 224[b].

——, 27 Sept. Survey of the conduit ordered. f. 227[b].

——, 28 Sept. Settlement of a suit which had been depending in the Court of Star Chamber for seven years respecting the election of George Proud as alderman on the death of Edward Hosyer, esq. f. 229. (Other suits about elections are noticed in several places.)

1579, 23 Jan. (1 Feb. *interlined*). Mr. Thomas Burnell commissioned to go to Dr. Bonckley to move him, by the desire of the bailiffs and the schoolmaster, to accept the cure of St. Mary's, which is now destitute of a curate. f. 232. [*See under* 21 March 1580.]

1 Feb. Forty pounds, bequeathed by Thomas Nicolls for the maintenance of a preacher in St. Chad's for ever, are paid to Thomas Burnell, gent., and he enters into a bond of 100*l.* for the making assurance of £4 6*s.* 8*d.* for ever to the use of a preacher out of his lands. f. 232[b]. 8 Sept. The indentures of the assurance to be sealed. f. 337[b].

Agreed that Mr. Burnell take some pains at Coventry for the obtaining copies of orders and instructions for the laying out of the money bequeathed by Mr. Rob. Allen to the use of poor occupiers of the town. *f.* 232*b.*

Agreed that the councillors shall buy for themselves before Pentecost next a gown of "murrey in graine," and shall wear it on days appointed to wear scarlet, upon pain of 20*s*. f. 233.

——, 17 July. Order for sealing indentures with William Jones, William Hearing, and Richard Gardner, for the making of the conduit heads. f. 295.

——, 23 July. Agreement with Arthur Mackworth (admitted a burgess together with his father William) for the digging turf and stone in any of his lands for finishing the conduit head. f. 295^{b}. *See also* f. 336^{b}.

1580, 21 March. Agreed that a bond of 500*l*. be given to Dr. Bulkley to secure payment to him of 52*l*. yearly. f. 297. (Again entered at f. 340 and at f. 345^{b}.)

——, 20 June. Sir George Bromley, knt., justice of Chester and of the Marches, elected Recorder, with the yearly fee of 4*l*. f. 347^{b}.

——, 29 July. Four soldiers to be sent to Ireland at a cost of 6*l*. f. 358.

Whereas Thomas Blackwood, deceased, bequeathed 200*l*., or thereabouts for the purchasing of some living for the maintenance of a preacher within the parish of St. Chad, agreed that the said money shall be employed in the purchasing of the tithes of the parsonage of St. Chad's, in fee simple, for ever, viz., the Easter box of the said parish, the tithes of wool and lamb of Franckvill and other small tithes, the tithes of all the lands lying behind the walls, between the Welsh Freers and the other Freers commonly called Freer London, and the tithes of the great Mouncke Yee. And whereas the said tithes are leased to John Lewis, draper, for the term of ten years yet to come, it is agreed that the bailiffs with six other gentlemen shall deal with the said Lewis for the buying of his lease. f. 348^{b}. *See under* 4 Apr. 1581.

——, 17 Oct. Whereas motion is made concerning the fines of the common councillors for not wearing their murrey gowns, and because objection is made that the said colour of cloth is not to be worn by the laws of this realm, therefore the most number are agreed that the advice of the Recorder shall be taken at his next coming whether the said colour of cloth may be worn by law or not, for want of ability according to the statute*. . . . . And then order to be taken for establishing or disannulling of the former agreement. f. 349^{b}.

Agreed that William Wilks, servant to Adam Mitton, gent., town clerk, shall, in respect of his pains taken in writing certain cases for the town, be admitted a free burgess, paying 20*s*. in hand, and 20*s*. yearly until the sum of 5*l*. be paid. f. 350.

The mixen in Rowsell let to John Dawes for 30*s*. yearly, on condition that the dung be not carried thence over any of the bridges with any iron-bound wain or cart. *Ibid.*

——, 28 Oct. Agreed that the bailiffs shall send for the wardens of the butchers, and take order with them that their company sell tallow after the rate of 10*s*. or 10*s*. 6*d*. a quarter. And if they refuse, then the bailiffs shall take their composition from them, and presently make proclamation that all foreign butchers shall come in and sell at their pleasure. And all the tallow chandlers to sell candles for 3*d*. a pound.

* The latest statute regulating apparel, which repealed preceding statutes, was 24 Hen. VIII., cap. 13.

And if the butchers stand obstinately in the said cause, then the bailiffs shall deal with them as extremely concerning their forfeitures by composition. f. 352.

——, 16 (30 *interlined*) Dec. Agreed that the bailiff shall take with the assistance of six of the best parishioners of St. Chad's and three from every other parish, a survey of all the poor people in the town and liberties, and shall assess what weekly charge will serve for their weekly relief ; and then shall sess all the inhabitants what weekly charge each of them shall pay, and shall make a register book according to the form of the statute in that case provided ; so that the bailiffs deal no further herein than the said statute will warrant them to do. f. 353.

And whereas there was gathered of certain occupations the sum of 6*l.* 5*s.* towards the furniture of Dr. Boulkley's house, the said money shall be presently given to him, and the other occupations that have not as yet given any money shall be sent for, and order taken for the payment of the residue according to their promise. f. 353^{b}.

The Lord President at his coming with the Council shall have half a tun of Gascoyne wine "to pleasure them withal." *Ibid.*

There shall be given to the wayte-men new coats of broad cloth, of the colour of orange tawny, in respect of their pains-taking to play every morning. *Ibid.*

1581, 10 March. A dinner shall be made to the President and Council. f. 354^{b}.

——, 4 April. 114*l.*, together with Black[wood]'s money, to be paid to Thomas Owen, esq. [of Lincoln's Inn] for a grant to be made by him of the tithe of certain pastures, parcel of the late college of St. Chad, viz. a pasture called Behind the Walls, another pasture called Great Mounckeye, another called Sturnes Close, and all other pastures comprised in a lease whereby one John Lewis now occupies the same, together with the Easter book (*sic*) and all manner small tithes mentioned in the same lease. f. 355.

——, 4, 8 Apr. The pasture land Behind the walls to be ploughed, and sown, and the profits for the next three years to be employed towards the purchasing of all those tithes of the college of St. Chad contained in a lease of John Lewis, to the use of a preacher within the said parish of St. Chad. ff. 298^{b}, 355^{b}, 356.

——, 13 Apr. Further agreement that eight persons named shall have the said lands for two years rent-free, with the tithes for their own use, on condition of paying down at once 114*l.* for the purchasing of the tithes of St. Chad's. ff. 299, 356^{b}.

——, 15 Apr. The charges of the bailiffs in a suit brought against them "before Mr. Controller at London for matters touchinge two lewd fellows that had auctoritie together [*to gather* ?] for the Quene's Bench and Marshallsie," to be borne by the town. f. 357.

Whereas the Lord President intends to keep St. George's feast in this town, a fat ox shall be given him. *Ibid.*

——, 25 July. A letter to be written to Mr. Thomas Owen requesting the assurance of the tithes of St. Chad's, and that as John Lewis will not yield to reasonable order or agreement the corporation look to have the bargain made with Owen. f. 357^{b}. An order relating to this assurance dated 15 Aug. 1587 is at f. 395 (*loose*).

Whereas Richard Shurlow, mercer, was bound in 10*l.* for the good order and rule of the house of John Bushop who was admitted to sell ale, and has forfeited his recognizance by means of evil servants, it is agreed on his submission that the bailiffs and the six [men] shall take such fine as they think reasonable, and that he be discharged. f. 358. [Several other fines are also partially remitted.]

Richard Purcell, gentleman, ordered to pay 20*l.* for arrears of a sum of 40*s.* due from him yearly to the poor people of the town. *Ibid.* Bond to be given for payment of 5*l.* half-yearly. f. 360.

——, 26 Aug. 5*l.* to be given to Sir George Bromley, knt., and to Edward Leighton, esq., in respect of a marriage now solemnized between their children, in such things as they shall best like of. f. 359. The bailiffs and the six men shall likewise bestow such sums as they shall think meet upon Mr. Henry Bromley, being son and heir to the Lord Chancellor, and other gentlemen of W[orship] coming to the town. *Ibid.*

——, 14 and 22 Sept. Dr. Bulkley to have 10*l.* given him in respect of his pains taken in preaching, and to be admitted a free burgess, paying the ordinary fine. ff. 299^{b}, 360.

Five pounds to be given to the parishioners of St. Mary's towards the repairing of the decayed windows. ff. 299^{b}, 360^{b}.

——, 4 Oct. 15*l.* to be paid to Mr. Robert Ireland, esq., in full discharge of 42*l.* 8*s.* due to him as burgess of parliament in the first, fifth, and fourteenth years of her Majesty's reign, to be paid as follows: 10*l.* to Mr. Ireland, 50*s.* to Dr. Bonckley's eldest son, and the other 50*s.* to employed upon the pavement in "Mardwall." f. 300. A writ dated 13 Jan. an. 10 [1568] summoning the bailiffs to pay 10*l.* for his expenses, at 2*s.* per day, in attending the parliament in the fifth year, lies here loose.

1582, 20 Apr. "Articles for the quieting and stay of some varians and division like to have insued in the election of counsellors," agreed upon "by the mediation of Mr. Dr. Bulkley and Mr. Richard Barker"; with twenty-three original signatures. Lying loose in the vol.

——, 3 Aug. A cessment to be made of all the inhabitants for levying of 200*l.* for a stock to remain for the corporation for the maintenance of the public preacher, if Mr. Justice Bromley shall think well thereof. f. 363.

——, 9 Sept. John Tomkis, M.A., elected preacher in the room of Edward Bulkley, D.D., who recommended him; having held the place since the f. of St. John Bapt., he hath showed himself to be a faithful pastor and profitable teacher in the church of God. It is agreed that he receive the stipend of 52*l.* partly depending upon voluntary contributions and partly upon the raising of 300*l.* out of the town funds, together with the 20*l.* paid from the Free School as yearly stipend to the minister of St. Mary's, now held by Mr. Tomkis and his curate. He is not to be absent for more than a week at a time without licence of the bailiffs, nor to give over the place without reasonable cause allowed by them, f. 365; (or give half a year's warning, f. 366^{b}).

——, 12 Sept. Twenty-six persons to be admitted free burgesses, each of them paying 5*l.* besides all fees; and none hereafter to be admitted except on payment of 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* besides all fees. The money now received to be applied to no other use but the maintenance of the

public preachers and further money to be raised in some way to make up the amount to 300*l.*; f. 300[b]. Payment to be made to Mr. Tomkys, the public preacher, of 52*l.* yearly, until further order be taken by Sir George Bromley, recorder, and Thomas Owen, esq., for the raising the payment by the disbursing of the above 300*l.*; and in the mean time the particular contribution to be gathered. f. 301.

"The six men called the vi *sitters* shalbe *cessors*" for admittance of the twenty-six burgesses. *Ibid.*

——, 20 Sept. Fourteen more burgesses to be admitted, to make up the above 300*l.* for the preacher. ff. 301[b], 367.

——, 29 Sept. Twenty more burgesses to be admitted, whose payments are to be added to the 300*l.* received "for the last *sixty* burgesses" for the maintenance of the public preacher. ff. 302, 367[b].

——, 9 Oct. The nine attorneys now in the court of the town to hold their places for life, and not to be displaced without reasonable cause; but in future the number is not to exceed eight. f. 368[b].

——, 11 Oct. Any person who shall abuse or misuse any bailiff, magistrate, alderman or councillor, shall be punished at the discretion of the bailiff for the time being. f. 369.

Thomas Backhouse, a prisoner now remaining in ward for fines of divers frays and bloods and other misdemeanors, shall be set at liberty with a lock on his foot, and to work at his house or other places for maintenance of himself, and to pay weekly twopence toward the discharge of the said debt, if the debt may by this means be levied; otherwise to be pardoned. *Ibid.*

——, 12 Oct. 400*l.* to be lent out by the bailiffs for one year at the rate of 10 per cent. f. 369[b].

——, 10 Nov. Richard Gardner to have 5*l.* yearly to keep the conduit in repair. f. 370.

1583, 8 March. 10*l.* to be given to the Lady Sidney, to be employed upon such necessaries at the discretion of the bailiffs, as shall be to the worship of the town. f. 373[b].

——, 18, 27 Apr. Ordered that 23*l.* borrowed for the charges of a suit before the Privy Council concerning the stapling of cottons and frizes at West Chester be repaid to the lenders, and that twenty marks be bestowed upon a piece of plate to be given to the Lord Chancellor in recompence of his good will to the corporation in the said suit. f. 374[b].

——, 11 July. No one to be hereafter admitted to the office of town clerk but such a one as hath proceeded to the degree of an outer barrister at Inns of Court; he shall be continually resiant, and not to serve the office by any deputy without special licence. f. 375.

1583, 19 Sept. Order that the 400*l.* raised for the public preacher be yearly lent out by the bailiffs together with eight others. ff. 303[b], 376[b].

The great house called the Council House granted to Roland Barker, esq., for such term and interest as the bailiffs and burgesses have in it, he keeping it in repair and paying all such rents and duties as are payable, and removing when the Council of the Marches shall come here, and returning on their departure. f. 304.

ff. 305–327 are blank.

1584, 5 Feb. "The most numbar of this assembly be agreed that Mr. Bayliffes shale write there letters to the L. Presydent for the ansureringe of his l. letter conserninge the vyadge into the land of America [*the expedition of Raleigh to Virginie*] in suche sorte as the same is nowe written by the advice of Mr. Prince." f. 379b.

1560–1614. List of burgesses specially made in compliment, from 19 Sept. 2 Eliz. to 6 Oct. 12 Jac. I. f. 397 (*loose*).

1623, 21 Apr. Sir William Herbert, knt., Sir Percy Herbert, his son and heir, bart., and Sir Basil Brooke, knt., to be admitted burgesses without paying any fine or fee, on account of their love and goodwill to this corporation, expressed in the cause lately depending before the Privy Council between this town and the town of Oswestry concerning the freedom of market for Welsh cottons. f. 396 (*loose*).

IV. Upon this volume there follows such a gap in the records of the proceedings of the Corporation that it seems hardly possible that the missing books can be altogether lost, but that some portion at least may be lying *perdu* elsewhere, unless they were burned in a fire that occurred in 1881 at the Shire Hall where the records are kept.* For the next volume begins at the year 1736. There appears to be very little in it, or in the subsequent volume, that is of more than purely local interest.

1744, 31 Aug. A decree recites the ordinance of Edw. VI. that the scholars of the Grammar School should attend church every Sunday, particularly any church where there should be a sermon, and goes on to state that in course of time in consequence of the inconvenience caused by the great increase of numbers, the Schoolmaster applied to have a chapel at the School, and that two decrees in Chancery in 11 and 21 James I. provided for the application of 20*l. per an.* from the revenue of the School as a stipend for some sufficient person, who was to be appointed by the bailiffs and chief schoolmaster to read divine service in the Chapel and catechize the scholars on all Sabbath days, holy-days, and half holy-days. But whereas it appeared that no person had of late been appointed to this office, it was ordered on 7 March that the mayor apply to the Schoolmaster, Rev. Leonard Hotchkis, to join in a nomination, which he had refused to do, alleging that he himself was the catechizer, having been appointed some years ago by Edward Twiss, esq., then mayor, and himself. Such appointment, however, not being conformable to the orders and decrees above mentioned, and Mr. Hotchkis not pretending to have performed the chief duty of the catechizer in reading divine service, it is ordered that the stipend of 20*l.* be not henceforth paid to him or any other for his use, but be retained until a proper person shall be appointed. (On 7 March Mr. Hotchkis had been called upon to resign the living of Uffington, which he had accepted contrary to the regulations of the School.)

1775, 6 Oct. Address to the King on the rebellion in America.

V. The next volume begins on 3 Oct. 1788 and ends in 1820.

1803, 30 Sept. 500*l.* voted for the repair of "the venerable and magnificent building called the Market House," and for building a new staircase in the recess on the east side. f. 139.

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* A "Book of Orders" is often referred to by Owen and Blakeway during the Civil War period. It must have been lost, therefore, since they wrote.

1805, 10 Dec. Address to the King on the naval victories, and on the death of Nelson, "which alone could add a ray of glory to his transcendant merits." f. 146.

1814, 9 June. Presentation of the freedom of the town to General Lord Hill, in a gold box, and to his five brothers, with his reply to the address. ff. 186^{b}, 188^{b}.

1814, 15 July. Petition against the clause in the treaty with France sanctioning continuance of the slave trade for five years, with vote of warmest thanks to Will. Wilberforce, and to others. f. 190.

1820. In this year gas was introduced into the town 6 Oct. A petition to the Prime Minister on behalf of Lieut. James Atcherley, of the Marines, a burgess of Shrewsbury, who served at Trafalgar, &c., asking for his appointment as tide surveyor or coasting waiter, with copies of certificate from Sir Israel Pellew and Adm. M. de Courcy. ff. 230^{b}, 231.

VI. The next volume extends to the year 1835.

V.—Bailiffs' Accounts.

There is a very large series of these, for the most part in good condition, beginning apparently at the fortieth year of Henry III., 1256. In many years, however, the rolls are fragmentary, often containing only the receipts from the bridge tolls, and the dates are often only to be ascertained from internal evidence. The early accounts are made up weekly, on Sunday; the first roll which has a date, that of 40 Henry III., begins, "Recepta die dominica proxima post festum beati Petri ad Avincula (*sic*), et expense operatoribus in quarrera" (now the town-park, still called the Quarry). The receipts are from the tolls at the gate of St. George, the gate beyond the bridge, the gate towards the abbey, and the castle gate, severally amounting to 9*s*., 6*s*., 5*s*. less one halfpenny, and 12*s*. 1*d*. "Alanus Shitle et Eug. le Colier erant custodes muragii recepcionis et deliberacionis hujus rotuli, et Ricardus filius Herberti scripsit recepta et deliberaciones tunc temporis." There is one roll of this king's time which is altogether undated, and may very probably be the earliest. A roll which belongs to *an*. 44-5 (1260–1) is very long, and is chiefly occupied with work on the fortifications of the town, caused by the barons' war. A new tower is built "sub castro"; much stone is dug in the quarry and carried thence by boat for building the wall at "Garewald" and the wall at "Gatepol"; the gate of St. Rumold, or, as it is also called, at "Romoldsham" is built; and the following entries show the reason for the work and hence determine the date of the record, which otherwise does not appear. "Ad lignandum quarellas subscriptas et corrigendum alblastra ville, xiiij^{d}, scilicet Willelmo le Alblister. . . . Willelmo Alblastario ad essendum in servicio ville dum contencio durat inter dominum regem et consilium suum et omnes magnates Anglie, xiiij^{d} in illa septimana, et ad lignandum prædictas quarellas." The roll has a very early endorsement that it, together with two others, is "de tempore Ricardi fil. Herberti," a name not found in the printed list of bailiffs. In those others, together with one more, are found the following entries: "Mem. quod Alanus fil. Gamel accommodavit communitati ville xvii xx^{ti} lapides liberos de quarrera in septimana prox. post f. S. Barnabe apost. anno r. r. H. xliiij. [1260]. In hac die convencio facta fuit cum magistro Alano et Johanne Gymel, cementariis, de muro apud Gatepol, scilicet pro c pedibus iij l., de quibus

denariis primo pacatum est eis x sol." Alan Gamel lent also one mark to the town.* Work was done at the house of the Friars Preachers at the charge of the town, and money was also given them. In the beginning of July 1265 (49 Hen. III.) sixpence is given "cuidam garcioni eunti apud Herford ad ascultandum rumores," which would be shortly after Prince Edward's escape from Hereford. For the reign of Henry there appear to be altogether the accounts for eleven years between 1256, or earlier, and 1271.

For the reign of Edw. I. there are only the accounts for the fifth, seventh, and twenty-ninth to thirty-second years. But there is a very interesting *Coroners' Roll*, extending from the f. of St. Nicholas, 6 Dec. 1295 to Sept. 1306, and containing 58 inquests of felonies and accidents before John Russel, William Rondulf, and Thomas Colle, the coroners, including many cases of drowning in the Severn. In the following nine cases criminals who had gained sanctuary abjure the realm, Dover being assigned as the port for their departure. John son of Peter for killing Arthur Russel was eight days in sanctuary at St. Chad's. Thomas Onayn of Ydeshale, escaping while being taken to prison for thefts, was two days at St. Alkmund's. John le Forrier, for killing Adam de Kyderminster, was ten days at St. Chad's. Walter son of John del Zoke for killing John Seys of Chyrk, broke from prison and was ten days at St. Mary's. William Godbert of Wolstaneston escaped while being led to prison for killing Adam de Rokleye, and was ten days at St. Mary's. Zareford Vaghen of Egardeleye for burglary at the house of Thomas de Hyntone, was thirty days at St. Mary's. His chattels consisted of a cart-horse worth half a mark, and a sword worth 12*d.* with a knife worth a halfpenny, but John de Colushull, the proctor of the dean of St. Mary's, refused to give up to the coroners the sword and knife. Nicholas Cogeweyn of Wemme was led to St. Alchmund's, where he stayed for three days, by John Dun, for killing Henry de Cardestone; Dun was committed to prison. William son of Roger de Stanwordin in le Feld for burglary at the house of Joca of Little Boulewas, was at the church of Moele Bracy. John son of Thomas Baldewin, for killing Roger Wythed, was at St. Mary's for four weeks and two days. Two cases are recorded of the deaths of fugitive felons while being pursued. John Dugyn, a thief, broke prison, "et exivit circa horam ignitegii, et obviavit cuidam garcioni qui vocatur Ricardus de Clone, qui quidem Ricardus statim levavit hutesium . . . ad quod hutesium levatum venit Johannes Lawe, custos prisone predicte, et vidit predictum Johannem a prisona predicta evasum, et fugientem sequebatur post eum cum hutesio, et in fugiendo amputavit capud ejus." In the other case a priest was one of the felons concerned: "Johannes de Lastres, capellanus, et Mauricius de Glovernia indictati fuerunt coram Ricardo de Harleye, tunc vicecomite Salop, et capti fuerunt pro pluribus latrociniis, et ducti ad prisonam castri Salop, et dictam prisonam noctanter fregerunt, et evaserunt extra predictum castrum. Et Nicholaus de Wyhleye, constabularius castri predicti, hoc percipiens, prosecutus est eos usque ad libertatem ville, et in fugiendo occidit predictos Johannem et Mauricium tanquam felones domini Regis. Sepulti per Johannem Russell coronatorem." There are two executions by hanging. John son of Henry Rylot meeting William Gothin Cokabytestret, fought with him and killed him with sword-cuts in the head, and fled through the postern called Seynte Chadde lode; but he was taken and hung, and the inquest as to his goods returns him as owner of several houses with some land.

* Some of these entries are noticed in Owen and Blakeway, I. 123-4.

And Nicholas le Keu was hung for extensive robbery of horse, pigs, barley, oats, &c. in the house of the Master of the Knights of the Temple in Shrewsbury. The street now called by the singular name of *Mardol* appears here under the form *Mardefole*, and that now called *Shoplatch* as *Schoteplace*, and in 1280 as *Scheteplache*.

For the reign of Edw. II. there are rolls for years 2–5, 10, 12, 14, 15, 18–20, with fragments of six others which probably belong to this reign. The weekly receipt accounts begin now to be made up on Monday instead of Sunday. In *an.* 2, 3, 1309, entertainments are given to Sir Roger de Mortimer, to the Countess of Cornwall, to Sir Hugh de Croft the sheriff, and to Sir Miles de Rodberewe and Sir Richard de Harley coming as the justices, together with others. Courtesies ("curialitates") of this kind are of constant occurrence in all the rolls. There was a law-suit with the abbey, continued in the following year, to conduct which William le Serjaunt went to London. The roll for 1310–11 is chiefly occupied with the expenses of building the Gild-Hall.* The coroners are Peter Gerard and Roger Prido, who pay 20*s.* to the Exchequer for a horse of Sir John Strange ("extranei") which was drowned. The names of the parliamentary burgesses, about which for the year 1311 there has been some doubt, are from the following entries ascertained with certainty. "In allocatione duorum equorum allocatorum ad opus Ricardi Pryde et N. le Spicer apud London. ad parliamentum tentum anno v^{to}, vii^{s}. Lib. Nicholao le Spicer et Ricardo Pride ad parliamentum tentum apud Lond. anno v^{to}., lxviij^{s}. vij^{d}."

For the long reign of Edw. III. but few accounts remain; only partially for the years 4–8, 10–13, and 33, with portions of several rolls of uncertain date. In the first of these, for 1330–1, there are payments to the burgesses in parliament; to Roger Pride 30*s.* and 4*s.* for a horse, to Richard Russell, "pro parliamento," 10*s.*, and to Richard de Walleford, "pro feoudo suo de anno preterito 1 marc."

Richard II.; years 12, 17, 20. The last one, "de tempore Johannis Geffrei et Jacobi Dyghere, anno xx" (these being the bailiffs in 1396) is an interesting taxation roll, giving apparently the names of all the householders with their assessment, some noted as dead, and some as "insuffic."; it is endorsed with a few entries of payments.

Henry IV.; years 2, 4, 10 and 13. In the roll for 1400–1 there are entertainments twice for the players ("histriones") of the Prince and the earl of Stafford, and once for the "menstralles" of the earls of Worcester and Stafford. One hundred shillings were paid to Roger Atton "pro suo regardo, et pro suo magno labore quem fecit pro communitate ville domino Principi et concilio suo ad exonerandum ccclxxii homines de viagio cum dicto domino Principe in partibus Walliæ." In 1408–9 the players of the countess and earl of Arundel, of lord Powis, lord Talbot, and lord Furnivall are rewarded. Four pounds are paid to John Scryven and Thomas Pryde "pro expensis ad parliamentum de Gloucestre," and one shilling a day to each of them again for eleven days at the same parliament; and 53*s.* 4*d.* to them for going "versus Regem pro pardonacione subsidii habenda," a journey which achieved its object. At the marriage of a cousin of David Holbache players were

* Owen and Blakeway mistook this roll for one of the third year of Edw. I., and consequently assign to 1276 entertainments which were given in 1310; Vol. I., pp. 138–9. The date is determined by the change of regnal year being made in the month of July, as well as by the handwriting. And by the same mistake the building accounts are printed with the date of 1275 in Vol. III. of the *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*, 2nd S., 41–92.

entertained "in honorem ville," at a cost of 40*d.* A very large quantity of red and white wine was given in various presents. The roll for 1411–12 contains payments of salary and expenses to coroners.

Henry V. Only for his seventh year, 1419, and one that may be for 1421 or 1422. In the former there is an entry of 2*s.* 9*d.* paid for two flagons and three quarts of red wine "die amoris inter discordiam existentem inter Johannem Perle et Willelmum Forster." Other examples of reconciliation, "dies amoris," effected over liberal potations, occur in other rolls. There is also an interesting private roll for 1413–4 of Roger Skyle, chaplain, of his receipts and payments as the receiver for William Venables and Isabella his wife, who, it appears, lived in Mardol at Shrewsbury, there being an entry of twelve pence paid "pro reparacione domus magistri sui apud Mardefole." Many sums are paid on account of dame Isabella, mostly described as being for old debts; and Skyle receives 12*d.*, 10*s.*, and 6*s.* 8*d.* "pro stipendio suo, divina celebranti."

Henry VI. Years 2, 5, 11, 12, 14–17, 21–26, 28–31, 33, 36–38. In the roll for the 15th year, 1436–7, parliamentary expenses are thus entered: "Sol. Thome Thornes (*the mayor in this year*) uni burgensium elect. &c. cum Willelmo Boerley de Salop pro parliamento tento apud Westm. xxi die Januarii anno xv regis H. vi^ti, in partem solutionis vad. ejusdem Thome apud parliamentum eundo et redeundo, et ibidem existentis per lxxiii dies, vicesimo primo die Aprilis, iiijl. xii^d.* Sol. Will. Burley de Salop (*steward*, "seneschallus") uni burgensium Salop. elect. pro parliamento tent. &c. in partem solucionis vad. suorum, &c. lxvj^s viij^d. Item Will. Boerley, uni burgensium ville Salop [&c.] pro expensis suis apud London ad parliamentum, xiij^s iij^d." The minstrels of the Earl of Stafford receive 6*s.* 8*d.* and wine. "Pro uno pouderboxe eneo ad pulverizandum libros infra aulam communem ab [Will. Burley] emptum, in scaccario remanente, vjd." In 1437–8 William Boerley and John Falke are the coroners. Livery is given to two town minstrels "voc. *waytes*" who in 1442 are styled "histriones," a term probably applied to minstrels as mingling some rough acting or dancing with their music. To the roll of 1438–9 is attached a voucher for 10*l.* given to Richard Boerley, one of the bailiffs, and William Forster, the town-clerk, on their going to London in the matter of a law-suit with the Abbot of Lilleshall. There are two rolls of fines in the court of "Pi-poudre"; a short one in 1435, and a long one, much defaced, in 1436–7. In 1142 William Bastard† and Robert Whytcombe were burgesses in the Parliament held on 25 Jan. Ten shillings were given "histrionibus Regis" and payments to those of the Earl of Shrewsbury and others occur frequently in subsequent years, including one "voc. Trumpet." In 1443–4, "pro vino dato Whitchecote et aliis generosis venientibis ad sepulturam fil. Christophori Talbot, militis, x^d." At the Parliament in Feb. 1446 Richard Stury and William Boerley of Bromcroft were burgesses. In that year the Duke of York visited Shrewsbury. 1447, William Bastard and Thomas Beget are the burgesses in the Parliament at Bury. 1448, "Deliberat. Johanni Water et Ricardo Tunerver (?) pro edificacione gurgitis subtus Coton in plenam solucionem facture ejusdem, x*l.* Johanni Smethecote, valetto Regis, qui habet aquam Sabrine per literas patentes dicti Regis, vi^s viij^d." In every year at this period the payments for entertainments and gifts "pro honestate ville" are very numerous. An annual payment occurs of two shillings

* Thorne's name is not included in the list of burgesses in Owen and Blakeway.

† Will. Burton in Owen and Blakeway.

"pro besaundes [*bezants*] in Scaccario ex consuetudine de antiquo." 1449–50, Thomas Yonge is common, or town, clerk, and John Callerall, in other rolls called Calverall, the crier. A pipe of red wine was given to the Duke of York upon his coming to the town from Ireland on 12 Sept., and players and minstrels were employed on the occasion; and in 1451 the same present is made him on his coming for the sessions in July. In the latter year he sends venison, and then 24*s.* are spent "in comedendo carnes ferinas supradictas in presencia ballivorum et aliorum proborum virorum pro honestate ville"; and 16*s.* 4½*d.* were in like manner spent upon the eating three does given by the Earl of Shrewsbury, who with his countess came to the town. In this year John Phelyps is town-clerk, 1452, William Bastard and Richard Stury went to the King, the Chancellor, and others, to obtain letters patent and a charter "pro illis qui indictati fuerunt proditores ad sectam domini Regis," receiving a reward for their labour of 6*l.* 13*s.*, and a like amount was given to Sir John Talbot, Knt., for his good offices in the same cause. These traitors were no doubt those who had marched from Shrewsbury to Blackheath with the Duke of York.

1458–9, Payments of 3*s.* each were made to the keepers of the clocks striking the hours in the churches of St. Alkmund and St. Chad, including in the latter case "le chyme." Much repairing was done to the Welsh bridge. A pottle of "Tyre" wine (a name met with also in an earlier roll) was given with two flagons of red wine to lord Dudley, and two flagons of red, "voc. Ruynysche wyne," together with one flagon of white, to lord Powys. There was a good deal of trouble in this year about an illegal arrest of one Geoffrey Sothewortlie, for which some persons were indicted at Stafford. The Duke of York sent a letter to Roger Corbet, esq., of Morton, for the arrest of Hugh Cartwright and two others of the county of Lancaster, "qui jacuerunt in incidiis ad interficiendum diversos homines ville," and the capture was effected, and Hugh Cartwright and Henry Moleners were hung at Wenlock. Wine was given to various knights, esquires, and gentlemen of the Duke of York and his son the Earl of March. The following entries, some of which have been printed by Owen and Blakeway,* bear upon the civil war. "Sol. pro expensis Johannis Oliver equitantis ad castrum de Kylyngworth propter certa negocia villam tangencia, v^{s}. Pro expensis Johannis Phelypps et Johannis Oliver equitantium cum quatuor equis ad villam de Notyngham ad loquendum cum Rege et diversis ibidem pro respone. litere predicte [*a letter to the town from the King*], xi^{s}. Duobus hominibus equitantibus ad scrutand. de interfeccione diversorum hominum interfectorum per comitem de Salusbury juxta Drayton, et ad scrutandum de itinere ejusdem comitis, ij s. iiij d. Sex hominibus custodientibus le *veyle* vocatum le *weche*, diatim per septem [dies], quilibet eorum cap. iiij d. per diem, apud portam Wallie et castri, xiiij s. Tribus hominibus apud portam lapidcam quinque dies, modo supradicto, ij s. viij d. Tribus hominibus operantibus circa portam vocatam le Bulgerlode per duos dies, ex convencione ingrosso facta, ij s. xd." Many other repairs and additions were made to the fortifications, "pro tuicione ville." "Sol. Johanni Vryen equitanti per octo dies per duas vices propter rumores inter dominum Regem et ducem Ebor. vj s. viij d. Pro expensis Lod. Mychell equitantis modo consimili per sex dies, v s. Pro expensis Thome Bromley et Willelmi ap Rees et aliorum equi-

* The entry quoted by them, I. 226, from the accounts of this year about night patrols as evidencing the alarm felt at this time from the war, is an entry found several times in earlier rolls in this reign, as well as in years afterwards.

tancium ad dominum Ducem Ebor. cum litera et responcione eidem duci, vj s. viij d. Pro una vexilla empta pro *le daye weche* in campanile ecclesie beate Marie, ix d. Pro conductione unius equi conducti pro Johanne Cartwright equitante ad Drayton ad scrutandum de prelio inter comitem de Salusbury et dominum de Awdeley, xvj d. Pro expensis Johannis Vrien, Ricardi Upton, Lod. Michel, equitancium [ad] diversa loca propter rumores de domino Rege, et aliorum dominorum existencium apud villam de Worseter tempore insurreccionis, xiiij s. ij d. Pro expensis Roberti Dalton et Johannis Olivere exquitantium (*sic*) modo consimili, vj s. Pro expensis Johannis Vryen et Willelmi Carpenter modo consimili, iiij s. viij d." 1460. The extant rolls are almost entirely those of receipts, but an endorsement with a few other particulars has one entry relating to the war and one of its decisive battles. "Sol. ballivis pro expensis lxi hominum conductorum pro servicio domini Regis ad villam de Northampton, viij l. xiij s. iiij d."

Edward IV. For this reign the rolls with some portions of the accounts, chiefly of receipts, are numerous ; years 2–3 to 21–2, including a short Chamberlain's (Rich. Marchall's) roll for 5–6. Up to the fifth year inclusive there are, however, only toll and other receipts. 1466–7, "Sol. pro vino dato domino le Ferrers tam in hospicio suo duabus vicibus quam in taberna apud concordiam factam inter Ricardum Stury, Johannem Trentham, et Johannem Hoord in presencia ballivorum et aliorum generosoram cum dicto domino existencium, pro honestate ville, v s. vij d. Sol. diversis soldariis conductis ad equitandum cum comite Wygorn. precepto domini Regis ad castrum de Dynbygh, lxxix s. ij d." ; and for their livery vi s. vi d. John Trentham and John Hoord received 3*l.* 10*s.* as burgesses in parliament.* "Sol. xl soldariis conductis cum vadiis et gagis illis datis in servicio domini Regis cum comite Wygorn., precepto domini Regis, ad castrum de Harelagh, ut in litera dicti domini Regis plenius apparet, xviij^{li}. Pro expensis Jevan Lake equitantis propter rumores quando Ricardus Tunstall et alii de castello de Holt apud Wryxham, v s. Pro quodam regardo dato . . . Tylere pro diversis custis et expensis factis per Dan. Williams . . . supervidendum si Ricardus Tonstall, miles, et alii quidam . . . de Harelagh proponebant aliquod malum huic ville an non . . . (*mutilated*). 1469; "Sol. cuidam nuncio destinato et misso ad civitatem Ebor. ad scrutandum de rumoribus domini Regis, x s." 1479–80, "Sol. pro uno forseto empto ad imponendum cartas et munimenta ville, xij d." 1480–1, Roll of fines imposed in the Great Court, for trespasses, encroachments, obstructing highways, unlicensed selling of beer, &c. In bailiffs' account: "Pro una libra cumini solut. domino de Pymley pro comunia habenda in bruera de Pymley, iiij d." 1482, Six does were sent by the Duke of Buckingham, and to make pasties of these six bushels of flour were bought for 10*s.*, three pounds of pepper for 6*s.*, and two bushels of salt for 1*s.* 6*d.*

Richard III. Three rolls for his first year, 1483–4: "Sol. pro uno pixide empto ad imponendum cartam ville pro conduct. ejusdem ad parliamentum, vi d."

Henry VII. Years 9, 10, 13, 17–23, chiefly accounts of receipts from tolls, &c. 1493–4, *an.* 9, "Pro vino expendito super venerabiles de concilio domini Principis ad suum reventum de Northwallia, x d." The

* Not in Owen and Blakeway's list.

roll for the tenth year, 1494–5, contains many entries relative to entertainments at the visit of Prince Arthur and the King in that year, which are translated and largely annotated in Owen and Blakeway's *Hist.* I. 261–7; they are of an ordinary kind, and therefore do not require repetition here, unless it be this one: "Pro vino dato domino Principi ad ludum in quarell, ex s. (*not* cvi) iiij d." The accounts for the 18th year (and partly those for the 22nd) are on a paper sheet (injured by damp) instead of a parchment roll, and extracts from these relative to the intercourse between the town and the Council of the Marches are printed in Owen and Blakeway, I. 274–5, of which the most interesting entry is the following: "Sol. Henrico Blakemere pro pictura proporcionis ville ostendend. Consilio domini Regis, xij d." In that volume are also printed at pp. 279–282 extracts from a curious diary, in English, of expenses, kept by Richard Lyster on two journeys to London on the business of the town's dispute with the Abbot in May and June *an.* 22, 1507 (not 1506 as printed). It is written on five small folio leaves of paper, and is greatly injured by damp. Since the time when the heading was copied for the above book it has become almost entirely illegible. The journeys occupied four days each, and places stopped at for lodging or refreshment were Shiffnal, Hampton, Birmingham ("Byrmycham"), Coventry, Dunchurch, Daventry, Stony Stratford, Brickhill, Dunstaple, St. Alban's, and Barnet.

Henry VIII. From the accession of this sovereign the parchment rolls are confined to the accounts of receipts for tolls, stallage, &c., in a very imperfect series, while summaries of these are entered with the expense accounts in paper books, headed "Visus Compoti," which from exposure to damp are in a very mutilated and injured condition, some so tender as to crumble when touched. Of these there are the years 1509–13, 1515–8, 1519–20, 1522–7, 1530–1, 1532–3, 1534–8, 1540–1, 1542–3, and 1546–7.* In 1509–10 the burgesses in Parliament were the two bailiffs Roger Thornes and Thomas Knight, who had £10 for the expenses of 50 days. "In salmone, lampredis et vino datis in exhinnio dato reverendo in Christo patri episcopo Herfordensi, vj s. viij d. Pro pixide ad imponendum supplicacionem deliberandam cancellario domini Regis, 1 d. In diversis personis conductis ad portandum vinum commissionariis domini Regis ad abbathiam, vij d." Two entries in this year (with similar ones in following years) prove that still, as noted before, the term "histriones" was used indiscriminately to designate minstrels, for rewards of 10*s.* and 20*s.* are given "histrionibus" of the earl of Shrewsbury and of the King respectively, and then in both instances follow payments for wine given "ballivis et aliis probis hominibus audientibus melodiam eorum." 1510–11. A list of 64 cases of affrays for which fines were inflicted.

1515–6. "In regardo dato nuncio domini Regis portanti et nuncianti eis novos et jocundos rumores de nativitate principisse et filie dicti domini Regis, vj s. viij d. Pro vino dato abbati de Hylton, doctori theologie, predicanti apud Salop quarta dominica XL^me^ hoc anno ante nonam diei et post nonam ejusdem diei, xx d. (*He preached again in the following year.*) Pro mundacione de le Tolshop ac ornamento ejusdem cum sirpis et ramis viridibus pro honestate ville ad nundinas, iiij d.

* Many short extracts from these are printed by Owen and Blakeway, but often without distinctly specifying the year to which they belong. The majority of the entries now given are not, however, to be found there. The accounts for 13 Hen. VIII., 1521–2, quoted by the historians at p. 295 do not appear to be now in existence. The interesting note about William More, the King's lute-player, quoted at p. 327, probably was taken from that year's book, as it has not now been met with.

(*This entry occurs a second time in the same year, and afterwards in the following years.*) In vino, pomis, waffers, et aliis novellis datis et expenditis super abbatem Salop et famulos suos ad ludum et demonstracionem martiriorum Feliciane et Sabine martirum in quarera pone muros, iij s. In regardo dato lusoris (*sic*) ejusdem martirii tunc temporis hoc anno, x s." All the corn-crops of Thomas Burges of Newton were reaped and carried away by order of the bailiffs "eo quod idem Thomas Burges felonice interfecit quendam Irishe apud foriettam monachorum apud Salop, ut dicebatur."

1516–7. "In regardo dato nuncio domini Regis portantis literas domini Regis de insurreccione et correccione apprenticiorum civitatis London., xl d. Pro spintris emptis ad figendum papiros circa capita xj. perjuratorum, ex precepto domini Regis, puplici penitencia in foro Salop. correctorum, 1 d. In vino dato Inceptori fratrum heremitarum ordinis S. Augustini predicanti in ecclesia S. Cedde, viij d. (*In* 1523 *the Provincial preached.*) In expensis factis per subballivos et famulos suos euntes ad Acton Reignold ad pacificacionem, cujusdam magne affraie pacis et insurrectionis racione, ij s. iiij d. Pro redditu resoluto cantarie S. Katerine in ecclesia S. Alkmundi pro opellis carnificis, xxiiij s."

1517–8. "In vino expendito super tres reges Colonie equitantibus in interludio, pro solacio ville Salop in festo Pentecost., iiij d. Et in vino dato abbati Salop et famulis suis ad generalem processionem in festo Corporis Christi, pro honestate ville Salop, xviij d. ob."*

1519–20. A reward is given to Ralph Hubard minstrel of lord de "Mountegyle," and he receives it again in 1525–6 together with one Lokkett. A hogshead of claret for the commissioners coming from Ludlow cost 33 s. 4 d. "In regardo dato iiij^{or} interlusoribus comitis Arundele ostendentibus ballivis et comparibus suis diversa interludia, vj s. viij d. Et in vino dato eis et aliis extraneis personis intuentibus interludia, ultra denarios collectos, iiij s. iiij d. In denariis solutis et datis sagittatoribus de la Stondart certis diebus dominicis, videlicet, quolibet die meliori sagittario 11 d., et secundo meliori sagittario 1 d., ij s. Pro virgati (*sic*) panni linei de canabo, necnon pro pictura sex duodenarum capitum leopardorum pro signis utendis per pauperes colligentes elemosinas, xviij d. In expensis factis per ballivos circa correccionem Roberti Wright, famuli Thome Legh, positi super pilloriam pro parvo latrocinio per ipsum facto, eo quod felonice furatus fuit tres denarios argenti de clamide imaginis beate Marie juxta fontem in ecclesia S. Cedde, et fugando dictum Robertum extra villam, xiiij d. In regardo dato nuncio domini Regis portanti commissionem dicti domini Regis pro duplicibus vigiliis observandis dummodo idem dominus Rex fuerit in partibus transmarinis, ij s. In via caritativa et elemosinaria dat. gardiano et conventui fratrum minorum ville Salop. ad reparacionem de novo garnarium (*sic*) granorum conventus in ruina, x marc." A list of burgesses admitted in1519 is in a paper book containing also notes of proceedings in the courts in 1519–23.

1522–3. "De finibus quorundam tensariorum pardonatorum racione tam paupertatis quam de essendo suo in servicio domini Regis modo guerrino, ij li. Pro copia litere domini cardinalis misso (*sic*) commissariis domini Regis circa mutuum habendum, xx d. In vino expendito per communem clericum ville super Lodowicum Hanmere et alios deliberand. ei libros ex mutuo facto domino Regi, vj d. (*other entries respecting the loan*). Pro una rota pro communi compana pulsanda,

* Several notices of dancing bears from this year onwards are quoted by Owen and Blakeway. Gifts to bearwards are of frequent occurrence in earlier accounts.

xij d. In regardo dato joculatori dom. Regis, vj s. viij d. Et vino dato doctori ordinis Fratrum Prædicatorum predicanti in ecclesia collegiate S. Cedde, ix d." At the end of this year's account is a list of various household goods taken in distraint for fines, which is given also in 1519–20 and in other years.

1523–4. "In regardo dato ij nunciis dom. Regis portantibus literas de pace inter dom. Regem et Regem Francorum, iij s. iiij d. In vino dato domino Powysie ad magnam sagittacionem, inter dictum dominum et ballivos et alias personas honestatis ville, xviij d."

1524–5.* "Sol. pro pulsacione magne campane ecclesie S. Alkmundi pro mane surgentibus, iiij s. Pro custodia Jevan ap Morgan felonis, interfecti apud Horton quando fugam fecit post feloniam per ipsum factam, ultra xij d. habitos pro apparatu suo, viij d. In expensis factis per ballivos ad triumphum post capcionem Regis Francorum, in ignibus, vino, et pulsacione campanarum, xix s. iij d. In regardo dato nuncio dom. Regis portanti novos rumores, ij s. Pro expensis vigilancium Thomam Jebbessone, fugientem ad domum fratrum August. pro felonia, viij d. (*His goods were seized, as being a fugitive.*) In regardo dato vigilatoribus capientibus et producentibus illicita recia vocata *carthonnes*, iiij s."

1525–6. "In regardo dato custodi cameli dom. Regis ostendenti ballivis et comparibus suis joca illius cameli, iij s. iiij d. In galone vini data doctori Duffhill gardiano Fratrum Minorum ville Salop. post sermonem ejus factum, x d. Dat. clerico ecclesie S. Alkmundi pro labore suo in pulsando magnam campanam ibidem ad horam quartam in aurora tempore hiemali pro proficuo ville, iiij s. Dat. interlusoribus domine principisse, x s." (also in the following year and in 1531). There is in this year a diary kept by Adam Mitton and Richard Atkys of their expenses in a four days' journey to London and their stay there, and of a second journey, about a law-suit with the city of Worcester. The line of road followed was the same as in the journey made in 1507 *supra*.

1530–1. "In galone vini dato uxori Rogeri Thomas, unius ballivorum, in adventu suo de patria ad villam, pro honestate ville, xvi d. Pro uno ferro signato cum littera A ad comburendum personas abjurantes regnum in palma manus, iiij d. In novo instrumento posito in parva aula ad recipiendum urinam personarum ibidem mingentium, xii d.": (*see* Owen and Blakeway, p. 297 *n.*)

1532–3. "In expensis factis in garniamentis, liberatis, et histrion[ibus] pro dom. abbate de Marham tempore mensis Maii pro honestate ville hoc anno, vj^{s}. vij d.† Sol. Thome Eton pro factura

* The accounts for this year are quoted by Owen and Blakeway, p. 296 *n.*, as being for 1522.

† Other notices of this jesting pageant, of a character like that of the Abbot of Unreason, are given in Owen and Blakeway as follows. The accounts of 1521 from which they take their earlier instance appear now to be lost. "1521. Sol. pro una roba nova depicta, sotularibus, et aliis necessariis regardis et expensis factis super Ricardum Glasyer, abbatem de Marham, pro honestate et jocunditate ville, vj s. ix d. In regardo dato postitori communis campane circe villam pro proclamacione facta pro attendencia facienda super Abbatem de Marham tempora Maii hoc anno. j d. 1542. Sol. pro reparacione et pictura ornamentorum Abbatis de Mayvole, iiij s. iiij d. Et sol. pro una toga de nova facta dicto Abbati de Mayvole, vj s. j d. Sol. Ricardo Glasier pro labore suo in ludendo Abbatem de Mardall, vij s. iiij d. 1547, 1 Edw. VI., Regardo interlusoribus ludentibes cum domino Abbate de Marall, vij s. iiij d. Sol. Johanni Mason. peynter, pro pictura toge pro dicto domino Abbate de Marrall, xij d. 1551, 5 Edw. VI. Sol. domino de Abbott Marram et pro apparatu eorum, videlicet pro calciamentis, tunicis et aliis vestibus, viij s. iiij d." In the neighbouring village of Meole a similar pageant in the mock election of a Mayor "survived into the present century."

unius mansionis [*in the Quarry*] cum duobus stagiis pro dom. Presidente et ballivis tempore ludi septimana Pentacostes, ij^{s}. In regardo dato lusoribus ad dictum lusum pro reparacione ornamentorum suorum, xx s. [*Other notices of the players.*] Sol. pursatori [*l.* pulsatori] de daybell, et stipendio sacerdotis celebrantis missam S. Georgii diatim circa horam quartam in aurora, xiij s. iiij d."

1534–5. "Sol. pro custis et conduccionibus equorum ad conducendum vibrillas et alias ordinaciones guerrinas dom. Regis versus partes Hibernie, per mandatum dom. Regis, ij s. x d. Pro emendacione de la tubbe in magna aula ubi omnes persone mingunt, iiij d. In regardo m[agistro] Brandon, joculatori dom. Regis, vij s. x d. In regardo dato histrionibus extraneis melodiam et cantilenas eorum coram ballivis et comparibus pronunciantibus, viij d."

1535–6. The dukes of Richmond and Norfolk were entertained in great state in this year.* "Pro uno instrumento ad supponendum libros in Scaccario, cum quodam inclusorio pro scriptis vulgariter vocato *a dexte* cum diversis cophinis, ij s. ij d. Pro vino dato doctori Wall predicanti et declaranti verba divina coram communitate ville, v d. Sol. moneta data Ricardo equitanti versus commissionarios circa novos rumores de domina Anna nuper regina, xi d. Pro tribus mattis ad subponendum pedes ballivorum et sex sessorum in Scaccario sedencium, iij d."

1536–7. "Dat. in regardo Thome Matheus et Johanni Palmer de Bewdley pro labore et benivolencia suis trahentibus mercimonia de Bristollia ad Salop per rivulum Sabrinæ, v s. [*Similar entries later.*] Dat. in regardo Provinciali Fratrum Predicatorum predicanti et pronuncianti verbum Dei per totam ebdomadam Rogacionum, x s. Pro tortis et wafurnes [*and afterwards* vino] datis doctori Legh [visitori (*sic*) Regis], per ballivos, xviij d. [*and* xxd]. Sol. Priori fratrum Heremitarum ordinis S. Augustini ville Salop ad reparacionem domus sue ei concesse per communitatem ville, iiij li."

1537–8. "In regardo Humfrido Hulston, nuncio domine regine, portanti literas suas ballivis ville ad nativitatem domini Principis, vj s. viij d. In elemosina ac regardo dato Johanni Marshe de Colham egrotanti de peste, et pro custodia egrotorum ibidem ne infective perambularent villam, xvj d. Duabus mulieribus pro scrutacione egrote puelle per mandatum ballivorum, ij d. Pro vij c. de oystres datis domino Presidenti, ij s. iiij d. Uxori Johannis Jouks pauperis pro scrutacione egrotorum per mandatum ballivorum, ij d. Pro vino expendito ad nativitatem domini Principis, ij li. iij s. Cuidam juveni, ad instanciam Johannis Packynton, unius commissariorum dom. Regis, ad emendum camisiam, xx d. Rogero Philipps, goldsmyth, pro argento et emendacione colarium histrionum ville, xiij s. iiij d."

1540–1. "Pro vino dato suffraganeo domini Presidentis predicantis in ecclesia S. Alkmundi et aliis predicatoribus hoc anno, ij s."

1542–3. "Sol. pro responso exhibito commissionariis dom. Regis querimonie Thome Lee, Thome Sturye, et aliorum circa solucionem stipendii burgensium parliamenti ad ultimam sessionem, ij s. Et sol. pro copia replicationis eorundem, iiij d. Sol. pro una supplicacione per Robertum Broke, jurisperitum, concepta ad exhibendum domino Regi pro ereccione domus nuper monasterii Salop in collegium sive liberam

* The word omitted as illegible in Owen and Blakeway's quotation at p. 317 is "panibus."

scolam, vij s. vj d. Et sol. Humfredo Dickers clerico dicto R. B.* pro scripcione ejusdem supplicationis bis, ij s. Eidem Humphredo pro scripcione ejusdem supplicacionis in pergameno, xx d. In vino dato capellano dom. Presidentis predicantis apud Cadogans Crosse uno dierum Rogacionum, vj d."

The entries throughout the reign of Henry for amusements and entertainments are very numerous. Minstrels, actors, jugglers, and bear-wards with dancing bears (described as "agitatio ursorum") never failed in gaining rewards and in furnishing occasion for wine-drinkings to the bailiffs and their associates.

Edward VI. The receipt rolls exist for years 1, 3, 4, 6, 7. The expense accounts are in paper books, and in these the fourth and last years are wanting. There is also a small parcel of bills and drafts of accounts.

1546–7 (38 Hen. 1 Edw.) "Sol. iiij^{or} clericis parochialibus ecclesiarum ville, necnon pro pictura armorum domini Henrici nuper Regis Angliæ, ac pro vasto et factura ciriorum, ac pro aliis sumptibus ad exequias ejusdem nuper Regis, xi s. ij d.† Pro vino dato Ricardo Shurlowe, clerico, post predicacionem suam in ebdomodo (*sic*) die Rogacionum, v d. ob. Pro vino et tortis datis ballivis et associatis suis in festo Corporis Christi euntibus in processione, xvd. Pro vino dato ballivis et associatis suis post supervisionem virorum armatorum missorum ad partes boreales, ix d. ob. Pro pictura et factura singna (*sic*) ad similitudinem facie[i] leopardis pro viris armatis assignatis pro villa, xij d. Pro vino dato viris armatis missis versus Scotland per dom. Presidentem, x d. Pro serevisia data viris armatis assignatis et missis pro villa versus Scotland ad eorum exitum, vj d. Pro stipendio equi et in regardo dato Griffino Lyngen conducenti dictos viros armatos assignatos pro villa Salop usque ad le New Castle, xv s. Sol. Stephano Lowe, mason, de veteri debito ville, pro factura pontis lapidei, xl s., *and afterwards*, pro edificacione pontis lapidei vii li. (*the amount struck out.*) Sol. Humfredo Onneslow, arm. in plenam solucionem pro edificacione communis aule ville, xx li."

1547–8. "In regardo istrionibus ludentibus ante viros armatos, xij d.—cuidam istrioni ludenti ante viros equiles (*sic*) equitantes ad Scociam, xij d." Various other entries relative to the despatch of soldiers sent "ad Cociam," (as frequently written) under Richard Lawley as captain and Richard ap Rice; wine and beer given several times, with 17 *d.* spent upon Richard Lawley at his return. Thirty shillings were paid to Humphrey Onneslowe as rent for the Council House, and in other years. "Sol. Stephano Mason de debito ville pro factura et reparacione pontis lapidei, iij li. xvj d. Sol. pro literis dom. Regis Arthuro Makeworthe et aliis directis circa pecunias per eos concessas ad reedificacionem pontis lapidei, xiiij d."

1548–9. "Sol. Willelmo Newall de veteri debito ville in plenam solucionem pro meremio et lapidibus ab eo emptis ad reedificacionem Gwyalde ville Salop, xl s. Pro duobus vasis positis in Gwyalda [ad] mingendum, xxij d."

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* *Scil.* Rob. Broke, *not* domini Regis, *as in Owen and Blakeway*, p. 322.

† In the small parcel above mentioned are the rough accounts of the bailiffs for this year, in which the particulars of the royal exequies are noted in detail. One separate entry occurs here, which is included in the "aliis sumptibus" of the formal account: "Sol. sacriste S. Cedde pro factura le herse ed exequias dom. Regis, iiij d."

1549–50.—"Sol. pro factione ferrei ad comburendum felones vj^{d}. Reginaldo Corbett pro supplicacione exhibita dom. Cancellario pro Scola libera obtinenda x^{s}. Et servienti dom. Cancellarii pro favore suo in eadem, xx^{d}. Sol. pro empcione libere Scole infra villam Salop habenda, xv^{li}."

1551–2.—"Sol. Johanni de Domo Elymosorum (*sic*) pro ereccione corpus (*sic*) Elisabeth Bikerstaffe interfecte et sepulte existentis, xij^{d}. Pro cordis et circa sepulturam et suspencionem duorum felonum, xvj^{d}. Pro ferris ad suspendendum Thomam Bikerstaffe felonem, vj^{s}. Pro cordis et expenditis circa suspensionem Willelmi Thatcher, xiiij^{d} (*and for irons for him* 4½*d.*). Sol. Ricardo Ive pro equo et carta ad flagellandum vacabundum circa forum, iiij^{d}. Pro vino dato predicatori xx^{o} die Maii per ballivos, vj^{d}. Sol. Thome Onneslowe, baker, pro expensis suis equitando pro domino Morys, xij^{d}. In regardo pedagogo libere Scole, videlicet domino Morys, xij^{d}. Pro diversis custibus expenditis [per Ric. Whitacres] particulariter circa liberam Scolam, lviij^{li} xviij^{s} iiij^{d}. Pro asportacione voluntatis Johannis Fyssher exemplificande, et expendit. circa eandem, ut particulariter apparet, v^{li} xx^{d}. Nuncio dom. Regis pro portante commissionem dom. Regis circa bona ecclesiastica, iij^{s} iiij^{d}. Stephano Lowe, mason, pro stipendio suo de veteri debito, xxxj^{s} vij^{d}. Johanni Prowde, pro domo et aliis terris et tenementis emptis et provisis pro libera Scola, xx^{li}. In regardo cuidam predicatori, iij^{s} iiij^{d}. In regardo, et super convencionem, Johanni Eyton, conducto ad custodiendum liberam Scolam grammaticalem, vj^{s} viij^{d}. Expendit. super predicatorem, xvi^{d}. Expendit. per ballivos super pedagogum nunc conductum, ij^{s} v^{d}. Expendit. circa reparaciones domorum provisorum pro libera Scola" (*included in a large payment of* 80*l.* 17*s.* 6*d. for other repairs*). The customary gifts of wine to preachers begin in this year to be superseded, as noted above, by money payments of greater value.

1552–3.—"In regardo domino Cocks, predicatori, ad emendum duos libros, xx*d.* Pro capcione uxorem (*sic*) Johannis Bennett ex terra post sepulacionem (*sic*!), xij^{d}. Expendit. per ballivos et assoc. suos die lune in le Whitson wuck (*sic*) post visum lusum, iij^{s} viij^{d}. Pro stipendio le watchemen circa domum Edward Hood, xl^{s} vj^{d}. Pro capistro et ferreis ad suspendendum Johannem Bennet et alios felones, v^{s} iij^{d}. Expendit. per ballivos et compares suos ad proclamacionem domine Reginæ, xvj^{s} v^{d}. Pro tunicis et aliis vestimentis ac pistur' (*sic*) earundem pro Robyn Hood, lix^{s} iii^{d} ob. In vino dato eisdem interlusoribus, xiiij^{s}. In regardo le tomlers, ij^{s}. Sol. pedagogo libere Scole in parte stipendii sui, xxij^{li}. De redditu resolut. Johanni Prowde pro tenemento . . libere Scole, iij^{s} iiij^{d}."

Mary I.—For her reign there is only one roll of receipts for 1554–5 and two books of expense accounts for the first and fourth years.

1553–4.—"Pro redditu libere Scole resolut. dom. Regine, debito ad f. S. Mich. Archang. ult. preteritum pro uno anno integro, viij^{s}. In regardo Thome Staney le jugler, ij^{s}. Expendit. per ballivos ad processionem quando Rex Philippus intravit in regnum Anglie ad tres (*sic*) separata loca ville Salop, xxxiiij^{s}. Sol. pedagogo libere Scole in parte stipendii sui, xxij^{li}."

1556–7.—"De redditu solut. J. heredi Johannis Prowde resolut. pro domo libere Scole, iij^{s} iiij^{d}."

Elizabeth.—Of this reign there are only very tattered and crumbling books for years 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 17, and 19. But parcels of the files of bills and vouchers from which the books were made up exist for years 3, 7, 9, 14, 16, 19-28, 32-36, 38, 41 and 42–5. The receipt-accounts exist for years 3, 5–12, 17, 18, 20–22, and 28–9. The accounts become much shorter than before; fewer entertainments are given to visitors, and there are fewer amusements, but players and bear-wards appear occasionally.

1558–9.—"Pro igne combusta in tempore proclamacionis [reginæ], iij^{s} ij^{d}. Pro vino dato sacerdotibus et aliis clericis tempore obitus domine Regine Marie nuper Anglie, v^{s} viij^{d}." The Council-House roof was tiled and the windows glazed.

1562–3.—"Pro salario et stipendio magistri et deputati sui libere Scole pro doct. puerorum hoc anno, xlviij^{li}. Pro redditu soluto pro pomerio libere Scole Johanni Mytton pro redditu pro uno anno integro, in consideracione quod magister Scole separabit ortum a terris alienis polis, vj^{s}. viij^{d}. Expend. per Ricardum Hyggons in itinere suo ad Londinum et pro regardo per ipsum dato clericis Concilii ad impetrandum commissionem dom. Regine ballivis ville ad conducendum milites et eos ornandum ad servicium Regine in milicia, j^{li} x^{s} j^{d} qu. Sol. subballivis pro vict. prison. custod. in gaola per spacium diversarum septimanarum, ut patet per billas, qui ibidem fuerunt adeo pauperes ut nihil habebant quod comedant vel bibant, xlij^{s}." A collection was made for the payment of George Leygh, for his salary as a burgess in five Parliaments, for which five writs had been issued to the bailiffs; but the amount is not entered.

1564–5.—Ten shillings and a gown were given to an officer of the town "pro effugacione mendicorum extra villam."

1566–7.—The sum of 9*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* was gathered for the Free School by a parochial collection in the four parishes within the walls and in the parish of St. Cross in the East "Foriett."

1571–2.—Richard Higgons asks payment for his labour, among other things, in "the plucking downe of the towre towne walle." Wafers and cakes were given to the Earl of Essex.

1573–4.—An annual payment for ringing the bells on the Queen's coronation day appears to be commenced in this year. See under 1574 in *Miscellaneous Papers, infra.*

1574–5.—"Sol. pro diversis equis ad ducendum [*Sir*] Barnabe Fittz Patrick Londino a villa, xx^{s}," "at the request of my lord President."

In the English draft of the accounts we find:—"Geven M^{r} Churchyerd in rewarde, being sente vnto us by my lord President with letters concerninge the coming of the Quene's maiestie to this towne, by the assent of the aldermen and counsellors, iij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}. Payd for the inclosinge of Kingsland this yere, as appereth by a bill of particulers xxxvij^{s} vj^{d}."

Through the rest of the reign the parcels of accounts seem to have been carefully searched by the laborious historians of Shrewsbury, who have extracted various interesting items, and it has therefore been deemed unnecessary now to examine them in detail. In 1598–9 the name of a town preacher has been met with, which appears to have escaped previous notice: "Pay'd to M^{r} Bright, our publique precher, for his stipend for this yere, xlvj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}.

There is also a roll of an assessment for repair of the bridges, walls and towers in 1562–3, which is of interest as giving the names of all the inhabitants of the Castle ward, with the rates at which they were assessed. The ink had so faded that the writing had become illegible, and the document had been supposed to be of a much earlier date, but by the application of hydrosulphuret of ammonia I was able to bring the whole to light.

James I.—The files of vouchers appear to want only years 3, 4, 19, 20, and 22, amongst them being the year of the Powder Plot. But the distinct books of summary account cease, and the general "discharge" statement henceforth appears only on a paper on the files, and is sometimes missing. It was impossible for me in my general survey to do more than to examine the parcels for a few selected years, but these were sufficient to show that the accounts are only of ordinary kind. The historians of Shrewsbury do not appear to have touched these, ceasing their examination with the reign of Elizabeth.

1607.—"To certen Frenchmen who had suffered shipwreck, x^{s}. To a Scottishe preacher, vj^{s} viij^{d}. Spent upon certen Frenche lords and others cominge to this towne, xj^{s} viij^{d}. Given to Mr. John Pryce, a precher, whoe made divers sermons in this towne xl^{s}."

1610.—A rental-book of the houses, &c. belonging to the town, in number 301, with the names of the tenants.

1612, 12 Nov.—"Given to a Gretian 5^{s}."*

1613, 23 June.—"Bestowed on M^{r} Robarts, precher, his horse meat and other charges, 6^{s} 8^{d}." Other preachers in this year are Atkins, Tompson and Goulborne. 10 Feb. "Bestowed uppon an Irishman, 2^{s}."

1621.—Strawberries appear in a bill for a corporation banquet on the second fair-day, 22 June. "Strawberies, vj^{d}. Item, for more strawberrys, xij^{d}."

Charles I.—The vouchers appear to be perfect except for years, 4, 11, and 14, 1628, 1635, and 1639. In this reign all the parcels have been examined from 1630.

1630, 13 May.—Letter from Peter Studley, the minister of Frankwell, asking for repayment of 53*s.* 2*d.* which he had laid out in a suit for recovering the small tithes, which he had by the grant of the Corporation, "from the unjust clayme which in the name of the Schoole is made unto them;" he will endeavour to prevent further charge by a friendly agreement with the School, though to his loss and hindrance.

1631.—Mr. Browne was now public preacher, at a salary of 46*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and 5*l.* were paid to "viccair Lloyd" for reading morning prayers at St. Alkmund's. In subsequent years 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* was also allowed to the preacher for the rent of his house.

1633.—A knitting school had been established, for in this year work was done in tiling the "jersey schoole."

1638.—"The chardge for passinge the newe charter, 52*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*" There is a separate parcel of vouchers containing the particulars of this charge, with the assessment made for defraying it. On 20 March the sergeant was sent to Bridgenorth to the High Sheriff with a letter from the Privy Council, "and a peticion thereinclosed concerninge the cesmente for shipp money."

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* At this period the use of the Roman numerals begins to be discontinued.

[Mayor's Accounts.]

1642.—"Bestowed by waye of gratuitys to the King's the Prynce's and Duke's servants at there beinge in Shrewsburye, 19*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.*" On 15 Sept. there were payments for nine bundles of proclamations. Payments for guns and gunpowder and to an engineer, and (very numerous) for repairs of the gates and the walls.

1643.—"Paid Sir Francis Ottley, Knight, towards payment of his garrison souldyers, 170*l.* Capt. Raynesford for disciplyninge of the garrison souldyers by the appoyntement of Sir Francis Ottley and others, 30*l.* Sir Edward Fitton, Knight, for powder and matche, by the direction of Mr. Maior and Sir Francis Ottley, 14*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*" Four assessments were made for the fortifications, amounting to 1927*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, while an assessment "for advaunce money to his Majesties' service" brought in 546*l.* 19*s.* 4*d.* One hundred pounds were borrowed from the School money. The vouchers in this year for the work done are of course very numerous.

1644.—"Paid which was spent on Prynce Rupert his highnes, Lord Byron, and other gentlemen of worshipp cominge to this towne 6*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* Presented to Prynce Rupert his highnes by way of guift from the Corporation, 100*l.* A bill for gunpowder works, 177*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* Sir Francis Ottley, Knight, the late governor, for him and his officers at severall times this yeare, 129*l.* 9*s.* 0*d.* Captayne Sandford, towards his paynes for directinge the makinge of fortifications 10*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* Mr. William Waringe for overseeinge the workemen at the Castle worke, by consent of the howse 5*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.* Sir Thomas Sneeton, Knight, in full of his demaund for 6 iron peeces of ordinance 33*l.* 18*s.* 0*d.* Borrowed of severall persons towards the payinge of workemen's wages for the fortifications, 2*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*" Nothing was paid to the public preacher this year. Of arrears of the four assessments made last year there was received 21*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.*, and 5*l.* of the assessment made for money advanced to the King, while of an assessment made of 1000*l.* for the fortifications there was received 721*l.* 19*s.* 11*d.* Other receipts were: Borrowed of several persons for payment of workmen at the fortifications, 45*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*; "Received of the severall inhabitants for sixepenny money," towards paying the same workmen, 49*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*; gunpowder sold, 40*l.* 4*s.* 0*d.*

Account of the monthly contribution money levied from Sept. 1644 to Feb. 164$\frac{4}{5}$, with the weekly payments made to Major Polden during that time.

Valuations of houses and lands in Shrewsbury and the neighbourhood for the assessments and the monthly contribution. (*Tattered.*) The name of Richard Baxter's father, who was, as his son tells us, one of the collectors, does not seem to occur in these lists.

1645.—There is nothing but a parcel of bills for ordinary charges remaining of this year.

1646, 1 Oct.—James Betton, the public preacher, gives a receipt for 60*l.* paid him for arrears. The other accounts are of an ordinary kind.

1647.—The usual payments for the public preacher are in this year made to one Mr. Samuel Fisher. Mr. Thomas Paget was minister of St. Chad's, and Mr. Thomas Blake vicar of St. Alkmund's. Out of

the money borrowed from the School in 1642–3, repayment was made of 47*l.* "Given Mr. Micheall Betton, cannaneere, in regarde of his good service done to this towne and countye, 5*l.*" A bookseller named Thomas Owen paid 6*l.* for his burgess fee.

Commonwealth.—For the period from 1650 to 1660 the accounts seem to be complete.

1650–1.—Mr. Richard Heath appears as minister of St. Alkmund's, receiving 5*l.* from the Corporation. The payment to the minister of St. Julian's ceases.

1652–3.—Mr. Francis Tallents, the public preacher, receives 65*l.* as his half-year's salary. The fee-farm rent from the town was redeemed in the Exchequer. One year's rent which had been left due was paid in 1659. But the rent was paid again at the Restoration.

1653–4.—Mr. Tho. Paget, the vicar of St. Chad's, had a gift of 25*l.* from the Corporation in addition to the usual annual payments, which was continued afterwards. "Paide by order of the Howse to buy twoe peeces of plate whereupon the Townes armes shall be engravened, to bestowe on Mr. Thomas Hayes as an expression of the Corporation's love unto him in regarde of his greate care and paynes he tooke the tyme the laste Plague was in his towne, after hee had ended his office of maioralty, 15*l.*

1654–5.—"Paid Bartholomew Bowley for an engine to quench fire, in full of xl^{li} 38*l.*"

1655–6.—"Bestowed on the High Sheriffe in regard hee procured both assises, to buy a peece of plate, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*" On Major General Berry's coming to the town, 1*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* was spent on an entertainment given him at the Red Lion on 28 Nov. 1655, consisting of four dozen cakes, two pounds of sugar and spice, 3 pottles of sack and one of claret, with music.

1656–7.—A "new way" over the "old heath" was paved, at a cost of 37*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*, towards which the Drapers' Company gave 10*l.* The Protector was proclaimed on July 18, 1657, when 6*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* were spent.

1657–8.—On Sept. 10, 1658, the new Protector Richard was proclaimed, with a more economical expenditure of 5*l.* 12*s.*

1658–9.—In this year Mr. John Bryan becomes minister of St. Chad's.

1659-60.—The many movements of troops in the neighbourhood consequent upon the royalist attempts just before the Restoration are illustrated by the bills for entertainments given by the Corporation. The modest provision of a quart of canary and a bun was afforded on 9 Nov. 1659 "when Major Waring came to the Exchequer to demand the Chamber of Concord for to be a maine guard for the souldiers." Much the same was spent "on Capt. Inglesbie," 9 March, 1660, and when "several proclamations" were made on 24 March. A more liberal allowance was made, with biscuits, wafers and "fowre bunns" for Col. Redmonde on 27 Feb. One week before, on 20 Feb. Mr. Bromley and Serjeant Pugh went by the Mayor's order "to meet the souldiers at Middle"; one quart of sack was then consumed by "Mr. Maior and other gentlemen, considering about the admitting the souldiers"; and,

finally, sack and ale were provided for the officers. But the greatness of the joy evinced at the Restoration may be gauged by comparison of the expense at proclaiming the King on 11 May with that at proclaiming the two Protectors, being 21*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.*

Charles II.—The accounts for 1666–7–1669–70 are wanting.

1661–2.—Francis Tallents ceases to be the public preacher. 10*l.* were paid towards the repair of St. Mary's steeple. The original warrants for displacing and appointing members of the Corporation and town officers, signed and sealed by the Commissioners for the purpose, are preserved, dated on Aug. 9 and 18. Those displaced are the mayor, nine aldermen, twelve assistants, the two chamberlains, one coroner, the marshal, one sergeant, and thirty-four burgesses. With regard to the town-clerk there is only a certificate signed by seven commissioners and dated 12 Sept. that they "thought fitt to displace and remove Thomas Jones of Shrewsbury, esq. from his late office of town clerk of the said towne, for severall things affirmed by credible testimony to have bin by him acted and done to the great disservice of his late majestie and of his majestie that now is, as well as for that it did appeare unto us hee was unduly elected into the said office." The warrants for appointment of successors relate to the mayor, aldermen, assistants, and officers, but not to the town clerk.

1662–3.—Mr. Robert Fowler is now public preacher, and Mr. Roger Heyward minister of St. Chad's. Twenty-five pounds are paid to Francis Tallents the late preacher, "according to the Visitor's order."

There does not seem to be much that calls for notice in the annual accounts after this date as having more than local interest. In the reign of James II. there are accounts for 1686–8, but they are only of ordinary nature. In that of William III. the years 1698–9 are wanting, and in that of Anne all but four; while those of George I. and II. are imperfect. From the accession of George III. the series is complete.

VI.—Trained Bands and Musters.

One box is filled with parcels of papers mostly from the time of Q. Eliz. to that of Q. Anne, containing lists of men able to bear arms, returns of weapons and armour, accounts for the billeting of soldiers and for the relief of the maimed, and the like.* The following notices may suffice to show the special features of the contents:—

circa 1370–80.—Two paper leaves contain lists of the "homines armati" and the "sagittarii" (in numbers 13 and 124), in two divisions of the town, "a Fratribus Predicatoribus usque ad Fratres Minores," and "a Fratribus Minoribus usque ad portam Wallie," each under four constables.

1545.—List of 24 able men, sufficiently horsed and harnessed, prepared in obedience to an order from the Earl of Shrewsbury to go to serve the King in the north parts. 21 Apr. 1545.

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* Several papers in this collection have been printed by Mr. W. Phillips in Vols. I. and III. of the second series of the Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological Society.

1562, July–Aug.—Copies of orders from the Queen and Council for the levying of 500 soldiers in the county and 300 in the town for an expedition to Normandy to prevent seizure by the French of the town of Newhaven.

1580.—Returns by the wardens of the various trade-companies of all their members, and of the journeymen and servants employed by them above the age of 16, with the weapons possessed by them.—Printed in *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*, 2*nd S.*, *I.*, 257-281.

1583, 2 Sept. Beawdley.—Commission and instructions from the Council of the Marches for a muster of lances and light horsemen.

1583, 13 Oct.—Letter from Sir H. Sydney, requiring further particulars in the return to the above commission.

1583, 21 Oct. Salop.—Letter of summons, signed by eight commissioners, to Thomas Ponsbury, esq., to appear on 24 Oct. to receive directions for the furniture of a light horseman. And other papers connected with this muster.

1588, June.—Copies of letters from the Privy Council and the Lord Lieutenant of Salop relative to the preparations to be made in consequence of the setting sail of the Spanish fleet.

1589, March.—Lists of men prepared for service; returns from the several trade-companies of their able-bodied men, accounts of armour, &c.

1616.—Two letters from Sir Francis Newport and Richard (?) Corbett to the bailiffs, the one dated at Eyton, 7 Sept., ordering six able men to appear on the 13th, from whom two are to be chosen for service in Ireland, and the other dated 21 Oct. ordering a general muster on 19 Nov.

1624, 8 Sept. Ludlow Castle.—Letter to the bailiffs from W. [Earl of] Northampton, commending their desire to have an artillery yard erected in Shrewsbury, license for which he will endeavour to obtain from the King.

c. 1643.—Lists of all the persons in the trained bands, divided into "squadrants."

1644.—A parcel of receipts for provisions supplied to the garrison, consisting chiefly of cheese.

VII.—Courts of the Bailiffs and Courts of Record.

The rolls of pleas in the Bailiffs' court in cases of debt and trespass and other civil cases begin in Dec., 1 Edw. I., 1272. They include afterwards cases of assault and theft. Amongst them is an assize roll ("coram Rege") in 1379. The records of the Sessions before the Recorder begin, in an imperfect condition, at the year 1508, or in fragmentary notes a little earlier. The Quarter-Sessions records begin at the year 1564.—(Extracts from these have been printed by Sir Offley Wakeman in the *Transactions of the Shropshire Archæol. Soc.*)

There are four rolls of the Court of Pie-powder in the years 1435–6, 1438, 1447 ("Pee Pouderez") and 1453 ("Peepoudres"). Rolls of fines are noticed above, in the Bailiffs' accounts *temp.* Hen. VI.

A thick folio volume of copies of recoveries, bonds, &c. in the court of the Bailiffs and Mayor bears the following title :—"A booke conteining the recordes of fynes, recoveries, and statutes within the towne of Shrewesbury; made in the tyme of Thomas Sherer and Thomas Chorlton, gent., Bailiffs, Anno Domini 1578; wherin nevertheles are conteined some recordes in former tyme." The contents extend to the year 1732.

Papers relating to the relief of the poor fill two boxes in conjunction with highway accounts. The first assessment for the poor is dated 30 Dec. 1580.

VIII.—Free Grammar School.

One box contains deeds and papers relating to the foundation and endowment of the School. Amongst these is an extremely interesting series of lists, on vellum, of benefactions to the library, giving not merely titles of books and names of donors, but a description of the binding of each volume. These lists extend from 1606 to 1634. The donors' names have been printed in local publications. And, on paper, there is a list of books chained in the library, dated 31 March, 1664; and also a tattered catalogue made in 1619 "provided to be reade openly in the Booth hall on the seaventeenth day of November yearely." One parcel of papers relates to a loan of 600*l.* made from the stock of the School kept in the exchequer of Shrewsbury to King Charles I. in 1642, by Richard Gibbons, mayor, Thomas Challinor, the Head Master, Robert Betton, senior alderman, and Richard Berrington, senior common-councilman. In 1650 an action was begun by the then Mayor and Aldermen against the lenders for recovery of the money. Betton and Berrington had both died before the suit began; of Gibbons it is said he "hath exiled himself almost ever since the suit began, and is now reported to be dead, but the plaintiffs know not"; so the actual defendants were said to be Challinor and Robert and Thomas Betton as executors to their father. Gibbons, however, did appear and plead. The case was still proceeding in 1671, but in 1673 was dismissed. There is a copy of the King's letter in acknowledgment of the loan, dated at Shrewsbury 11 Oct. 1642, in which he promises "that wee shall cause the same to be truely repayd to you whensoever you shall demand the same, and shall allwayes remember the loane of it as a very acceptable service unto us."

The following letters are of interest :—

1577, 15 May. Kerston.—Letter to the bailiffs (John Dawes and Richard Owen) from Thomas Asheton, the first Master. When he was trusted with the charge of their scholars, he, upon just consideration, forced with sickness, committed the same again, to be perfected, to worshipful, wise, learned, discreet personages, whose majesty and judgment might win to that matter more credit than it could ever have had by his own private doing; and, perusing their travails therein, he finds it so substantially gone through that he has just cause to like and allow of the same: And he most earnestly wishes the bailiffs to consent to the same, that the thing with all speed may have perfection; and think that it was God's providence that made them commit the matter to a weak person at the first, whose purposed power should give strength to the same at the last. Leaves them to be guided by God's Spirit, that, all faction set apart, they may look with a single eye to their government, and, God's wrath pacified, may enjoy the fruits of blessed concord.—Endorsed, "I pray you good Baylifs, kepe this well and safe. It is of weight."

157$\frac{7}{8}$, 9 Jan. "From my howse at Hallon."—Letter to the bailiffs and aldermen from Sir George Bromley. Understands by his friend Mr. Assheton that they make some question whether, as provided by the ordinances of the School, they may apply part of the revenues to the purchasing of lands for scholarships and fellowships in the University. When he penned the ordinances, he had the sight of the letters patent both of Edw. VI. and of the Queen that now is, and it seemed that the directions in the ordinances might be well done without any danger of forfeiture or prejudice.

1579, 9 Apr. London.—Letter to the bailiffs and to Thomas Lawrence, schoolmaster, from John [Aylmer, Bishop of] London, Sir Owen Hopton and M. Lewis. Understanding by the bearer John Williams that he was admitted vicar of St. Mary's in Salop, but that they have displaced him, and are about to appoint another in his room, they are hereby required to have consideration of the poor man's cause and to restore him to his former service; and do not only a good and charitable deed to the poor man, his wife and family, but also do God service.

1583, 28 July, Shrewsbury.—Draft of a letter to the Master and Fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge, from the Bailiffs, announcing the resignation of Mr. Lawrence, the chief schoolmaster, who, having continued in that charge fifteen years, now finds himself so weakened in body that he is not able to continue. His care and diligence have been such that the School has not only yielded a great number of good scholars, but also is the special ornament of the town, and is left in such good order that all gentlemen of these parts are very desirous to have their children trained up in it, whereby the number of scholars daily increases. They send the bearer, Thomas Salter, gent., to urge a good and careful selection of a successor, according to the great trust committed to the College. And albeit Mr. Baker, the second master, a master of arts, ought to be preferred before any other, he utterly refuses to supply the room. Should friendship prevail to commend a young or more insufficient man than Mr. Baker, they cannot allow of the choice.

1591, 19 Oct. "From the Schoole."—Letter to the bailiffs from John Meyghen, about his desire to purchase the school orchard.

1608–9.—Petition from Humphrey Gardner, glover, that his son Thomas Gardner, master of arts of both Universities, who was brought up in the School, may be recommended for appointment as second master, in the room of John Baker, M.A., deceased.

1627, 1 Nov. St. John's [College, Cambridge]. — Letter to the bailiffs from Owen Guyn, Master of the College. Has received their letter by Mr. Benion, informing him that two of the schoolmasters' places are void by resignation. Although the University and College abound with many fitting for such places, yet as some mature deliberation will be required, he will propound the matter at the next meeting of the seniors.

1627, 19 Nov. St. John's in Cambr.—Letter to the bailiffs, signed by the Master Owen Guyn, Rob. Lany, W. Mealeson, Rob. Aliot, Tho. Smith, Steph. Haxbye, John Pryse, and Hen. Downhale. They read with much grief of the present weakness and decay of the School, which would have been more grievous had it been by their default. But the elections having formerly been made of such only as were commended by the bailiffs themselves, the latter cannot in equity but clear them of this mishap. But since the remedy is now wholly referred to them, they have not insisted upon any of their own for favour, but have

enquired diligently in the University, and have made choice of the most eminent and best deserving that could be persuaded to accept of such preferment. To the second place they have elected James Brooke, M.A., fellow of Gunvyle and Caius College, whose ability is well known to them; and to the third place, David Evans, B.A., of Jesus College, brought up in the School, approved both for ability of learning and conversation of life.

1627, 27 Nov. Lichfield Palace.—Letter to the bailiffs, &c. from Thomas [Morton, bishop of] Coven. and Lichf. approving of the nominations of Brookes and Evans by St John's College. "I have furthermore examined them in the poynt of literature, and in all these respects have received soe good satisfaccõn for proofe both of theire life and learning that I doe greatlie reioyce I may commend such two worthie instruments for institution of youth unto you; by whose meanes I hope the former bewtie of that Schoole, so much decayed, wilbe revyved, to the profitt of the schollers, and to the contentment of them that affect the good of the Schoole."

1629.—See under this year under the head of *Miscellaneous Papers*.

1674, 28 Aug.—Petition from John Okeley, baker, who "through his loyalty to his prince" is maimed and unable to gain a being for his children, for a scholarship and exhibition for his son, whom he has brought up to learning in the School.—Referred to the Council for consideration.

1688, Oct.—Draft of a letter from the Mayor, stating, in reply to a notice from St. John's College that they had elected Mr. Johnson to supply the vacancy, that he is a person neither approved by himself nor by the preceding Mayor Mr. Salter. They have advised with counsel concerning the present difference between the Corporation and the College, and are informed that the right of nomination and approbation of a schoolmaster is settled in the former, and that in refusing Mr. Johnson they have acted legally, and according to the power granted them; and therefore they are resolved to vindicate their right. The continuance of a good correspondence may easily be effected, if the College will recall their seal granted to Mr. Johnson, and approve of one of the two persons formerly nominated, viz. Mr. Mathews, who has been a schoolmaster for some years, or Mr. Tisedale.

1744.—See under the head of the *Municipal Registers, supra.*

IX.—Miscellaneous Papers.

Several boxes are filled with miscellaneous documents and papers, and petitions to the bailiffs, sorted and labelled, extending from the 13th century to the 19th. I subjoin a chronological list of those which seem the most noteworthy among the older papers, and of a few selected from the large bundles of petitions, most of which deserve for their local interest the careful examination which is being gradually given to them. Some of these papers have been printed in the Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological Society.

1. A copy, apparently written in the fourteenth century, but in a hand which, except in the initial line, has evidently attempted (very successfully) to imitate a twelfth-century original, of an account of the foundation of the abbey by earl Roger de Montgomery. It is endorsed: "Carta qualiter domus Sancti Petri fuerat primo fundata."

An abstract of its contents is given in Owen's and Blakeway's *History*, II. 19–23, where it is said that the "writing is of very remote antiquity, scarcely later than the middle of the twelfth century." The doubtful place-name there printed as *Meiluil Hermer* appears rather to be *Meiliul Hermer*.

2. 1249–50.—Assays of the mint at Shrewsbury. "Rotulus de assays. factus per custodes cuneorum Salopp., incipient. die Jovis prox. ante festum Purificacionis Beate Marie a° r. r. H. xxxiij°"; ending "Die Cinerum anno r. r. H. xxxiiij." The returns for forty weeks, the assayers being Alan le Prude, William le Bor, and towards the end, in the place of the former, Thomas Gherard.

Owen and Blakeway, I. 135, where for *Pride* read *Prude*.

1267.—Copy made in 1421, 9. Hen. V., from an exemplification in the Records of 35 Edw. I., 1307, of the agreement between the Abbey and town of Shrewsbury respecting the mills, entered on the Plea Roll of 51 Hen. III. Owen and Blakeway, I. 130.

1270.—Receipt-roll of the tolls, and of their expenditure upon the paving of the town, 54 Hen. III. This should be among the rolls of bailiffs' accounts. It is noticed in Owen and Blakeway, I. 131–2.

1306–7.—*Placita* between the town and the abbey about the mills. Printed in *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*, 2nd Series, VI. 341–357, with translation and notes by Rev. C. H. Drinkwater.

1340.—Roll of felonies committed in the year 14 [Edward III.], with notes in the margin of the fines inflicted, and with two or three entries carrying on cases to 22 [Edw. III.]. In French. "Les. Jurors de Salopeburs dient par lur serements de felonyes fetes del an xiiij."

1351, 13 Jan.—Acknowledgment (in French) by Richard earl of Arundel of the receipt of 20*l.* in part payment of 300*l.* due to him from the bailiffs and commonalty of "Salopbirs"; at Arundel Castle, f. of St. Hilary, 24 Edw. III.

1374, 26 June, "die lune prox. post f. Nat. S. Joh. Bapt." 48 Edw. III.—Indenture of grant by John Stury and Reginald Mutton, bailiffs of Salop, with the consent of the whole community, to James le Dyere, of leave to raise the pavement and turn the channel in length and breadth between his tenement near the bailiffs' gate, so that the supervening water may have its course to the Severn near the tenement formerly John Colle's, with guarantee to him and his heirs of the said pavement and channel. Witnesses, Richard de Pontusbury, John de Schettone, William de Longenolre, Richard de Beortone, Richard Russell, John Perle. Round red seal; a figure kneeling before a figure holding a key (the "Noli me tangere"?): "Sigillum . . bert' de Northaatone" (?).

1397–8.—"Constabularii ville Salop. tempore Willelmi Willyley et Nicholai Jerard, ballivorum ville Salop." A sheet of parchment is thus headed, which gives the names of the burgesses of all the merchant gilds, beginning with the "Corveysers," and marking the first two, three, or four names in the lists of several of the companies as being the Constables. The names of the journeymen ("servientes eorum") are also given, and the inhabitants of the liberties.

1447, 2 Apr.—Letter from the bailiffs and burgesses of the town of Osewestre to Thomas Forstere and Adam Goldsmythe, the bailiffs, and to the burgesses, &c. of Shrewsbury. They certify that their cousin

and countryman Gruff of Kalcote and his son were never guilty of the matter for which they are indicted, viz., for the "resset" of one Guttyn ap Madwyn Lloit with his sons and other misdoers. "The said Gruff hathe dwellet wit youe of a child, of whom we truste to God ye herd never none untrouthe unto this tyme, nother of his sone."

1462, 31 Dec.—Letter to William Oteley, bailiff, from David Lloyd ap Ser^{e} Gruffuth, asking for the release of a servant of his, arrested in Shrewsbury, and he will do his law "as ye will awarde hym, for I wot well that ye woll nott put hym under no strayte jugement but as law and right will."

[1476–90.]—Two letters, one from the bailiffs of Oswestry to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, 5 Feb., the other from Thomas ap Meredith ap Ric. to "Master M. Thornes, bailiff of Shalop," 4 Feb., respecting the case of one Edward Sayre, whom the vicar of Oswestry is sueing at Shrewsbury at the same time that he is proceeding against him at Oswestry. The latter writer mentions "my cosyn John Davys yor sone ye law," and returns a book Thornes had lent him.

1491, 23 Jan.—Grant by Thomas, abbott of St. Peter's, Salop, and the convent, of the next presentation to the vicarage of All Saints, "Welyngtone sub le Wrekyn," to Humphrey Kynaston, gent., Robert Thornes, gent., Richard Egge, literate, and Robert Corbet, chaplain. Seal entirely cut off.

n.y. 30 June, at Llansanfrait.—Letter from John ap Meredith, parson of Llansantfrait, to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, "in all hast possibill," giving a list of successive purchasers of a horse, which he himself had bought at Ludlow, and which is now attached at Shrewsbury on suspicion of having been stolen.

n.y. 30 Aug. "From thabbey of Wigmore."—Letter from John Arundell to the bailiffs, desiring them to give to the bearer such money and goods as were taken with Thomas Elmbough when the writer laid his action for trespass against him.

1511–12. A parcel of orders from the Council of the Marches to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury; 3, 4 [Hen. VIII.]. There is also a report to the Council, at a later date when it was the Prince's Council, from the Shrewsbury justices appointed for surveying the Severn and its tributaries, respecting defaults not amended; an order in May, 1567; &c.

1511, 10 Sept.—Letter (*indented*) to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury from John Wosewall, of St. Chad's Almshouse, claiming fulfilment of their promise to make an end of a dispute between him and his father-in-law Robert Colle, respecting his mother's property, of which he claims to be wrongfully deprived, and hence has "lyffyd longe in catyvite and in wrechednes."

1515, 27 Oct.—Draft of the return of a commission of enquiry as to the districts comprised in the liberties of the town; dated Sat. before the f. of All SS., 7 Hen. VIII.

[*c.* 1520], 3 March. London.—Letter from George Cowper to his father, Thomas Cowper, town clerk of Shrewsbury. "If hit please youe to here of my pore welfare, I was in good helthe at the makyng of this bill, lawde to God. Also thankyng youe of your gret cost, wiche I

putt youe unto." Cannot as yet return his sword, for he can find no carrier to take it. Mentions his sister, his uncle Ottley, and his cousin Mary, who marvelleth greatly that she heareth no word from [her father] Ottley; and master Done and his wife, whose tokens he hath delivered to her son and daughter. "Ser, as for newes ther ys none, but of late ther was herytyks here, which dyd take Luters openyons."

c. 1523.—Application from Thomas Hosier for reimbursement of 5*s.* 4*d.* which he paid during his being bailiff [in 1521–2] with Roger Thornes, for his appearance in Chancery to certify the number of Frenchmen that were within the franchise of Salop.

1524, 29 Jan., 15 Hen. VIII., at London.—Letter from William Toft to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, desiring them to discharge one of his farmers, Evan ap Tyther bach, who is troubled by the writer's cousin Hugh Philipps, whereas he has given his farmers day till Midsummer next for all debt and duties. "My cosyn Hugh Philipps shall medell no more with my benefice and with my fermers from hensforth."

n.y. 8 June. London.—Letter from Hew Phelipis to the bailiffs, about the return of some writs "by Thomas Abromley is counsell" "Delyver Jevan Aptydyr a baghe for anye mater of myne, for I have don therewith, I will medyll no more therein."

[1526], 31 Oct. "Alhalow Evyn." London.—Letter to the bailiffs from Adam Mytton, employed in a suit with the city of Worcester. Worcester has a charter of 11 Hen. III., the same year as the charter of Shrewsbury, but the charter of John in his eleventh year to Shrewsbury has been delivered by Mr. Couper, and mention has been found of one granted in his seventeenth year, for which Couper is going to search.

c. 1530.—Copy of a petition to the Commissioners of the Marches from the inhabitants of the townships called the New Franchise of Shrewsbury, claiming exemption from taxes, general and local, by the charter granted by Hen. VII. forty years past and above.

[1528.]—Petition from Dr. Duffylde, the Warden, and the Brethren of the Grey Friars, to the bailiffs and burgesses for further contributions towards the repair of their house; with notes subjoined of money granted. Owen and Blakeway, II., 463.

Temp. Hen. VIII.—Petition to the bailiffs from the Bowyers and Fletchers of Shrewsbury, complaining that the statutes for encouragement of archery, which enjoin that children and servants above 12 years of age shall have one bow and two shafts, are neglected, as also the statute that forbids the unlawful games of bowls and tables, dice and cards, the art of shooting in the long bows being a pastime very commodious for man's health, and in time of war the greatest defence against the enemy, so that our nation has not only been had in great terror by enemies but also in veneration by others as the country of valiant victories gotten thereby. Consequently the most number of people give themselves to unlawful games; so, although it may be tolerable for the eminent inhabitants for their recreations to use sometime bowling or the like, yet it is not tolerable to suffer the common sort of people to run into the fields with the bowls, and bowl all day long in the open face of all the passers by. Apprentices and servants not having bows and arrows found them by their parents and masters, not so few as a hundred persons are betting, and playing by way of bets

their masters' goods, contrary to all good order, by means whereof the strength of the town, if necessary against rebellion (which God forbid), is weakened, and the living of the petitioners utterly taken away. (This paper is amongst those relating to the Trained Bands.)

Temp. Hen. VIII.—Minute description of two men and their dress, largely of velvet, an old man of 60 with a white beard, and a young man called Robert Jones, both shoemakers. "If that you do take them, send worde to Mr. Maior of Oxffordc, or to Mr. Alexander Miller, taylor to the Kings Maiestye in Breadstreite in London."

Temp. Hen. VIII., 13 March. Beaudley.—Letter to Thomas Couper, "recorder of the towne of Shrewsbury" from Lewes Hanmer, about some suit with the bailiffs, for which one Cook is appointed to appear on 26 March. Send some one with the words of the charter concerning the matter, and the circumstance of the matter, "and also the exclamation of the lewd body," considering Mr. Port, Mr. Salter, Mr. Bromley, and other of the Council will be here.

$154\frac{8}{9}$, 19 Feb. London.—Letter to the bailiffs from Reignald Corbett, the recorder, respecting some law proceedings.

1550.—Regulations by Thomas Leigh and Adam Otteley, Richard Lawley and Richard Leighton, as to the quantities of corn to be brought weekly on the market-days by the farmers, severally named, from the places round Shrewsbury, from November to Christmas, in pursuance of the King's proclamation on account of dearth; with a letter to the bailiffs from Sir Richard Brereton and Sir Robert Nedeham.

[1551] 29 July.—Letter to the bailiffs Purssell and Ireland from William Heynes about his exchanging a horse with Thomas Harries, of Terbyn, Cheshire, gent.

[1567? after Nov. 1566.]—Petition from a journeyman tailor to the Council of the Marches against his employer for non-payment of wages, with the reply of the latter alleging that the amount being under 40*s*. the case cannot be tried by that court, and enclosing the list of garments made by the plaintiff with the prices charged.

[1567] 11 March. Haughmond.—Letter from James "Berker" [Barker] to bailiff Alen, desiring that a suit against one Rondell Lee may be deferred on account of his being out of the realm on the Queen's service in Ireland, having been pressed and set forward at the last voyage of Sir Andrew Corbet and the writer.

1568, 24 Apr. "At my howse at Newetowne."—Letter from A. Vavasor to the bailiffs, desiring them to enforce some bonds against Mr. Price, or he will have to show their default to the Commissioners. [*See next article.*]

1568, 6 May. London.—Letter to the bailiffs from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Edm. [Grindal bishop of] London, Thomas Yale, and T[homas] Huycke. Whereas it is thought that they have permitted Richard Price, clerk, vicar of Kerry, whom they were ordered to apprehend, to escape, and such manifest contempt and negligence in the execution of the Queen's orders should be looked into and not silently passed over, they are to cause the said Price to appear in the Consistory Court at London on the tenth day after receipt hereof, or else themselves to appear on the sixteenth day.

1568, 9 Aug.—Letter from the Council of the Marches, ordering the pressing of four brickmakers and two tilers to be set forward for Ireland, whither the Lord Deputy of Ireland and the Lord President of the Marches are going, who require them for the setting forward of certain works.

1568, 25 Sept. Eccleshall Castle.—Letter to the bailiffs from Thomas [Bentham] bishop of Coventry and Lichfield. Whereas there has been a controversy between Mr. Powell and Mr. Payne about serving the cure of Ness, which was settled by friends about Candlemas with the condition that Mr. Payne should then depart thence, but who by remaining a certain space after has come into great misliking with many as having neither meant nor done honestly or faithfully, the writer desires it to be understood that that doing was wholly his and his officers', and that Payne's longer abode was in no point through his seeking or procurement, but wholly and only by the bishop's authority and charge, who found himself prejudiced in that the discharge was without his knowledge and consent.—Printed in *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*, 2nd S., IV. 64.

1569.—Petition from Robert Ireland, the younger, to the Council of the Marches, complaining of the non-payment to him by the bailiffs of Shrewsbury of arrears due to him at the time of his ceasing to be bailiff in the preceding year; with an order thereupon dated 2 Dec. 12 Eliz.

1570, 13 Aug. Ludlow Castle.—Letter from the Council of the Marches ordering strict search for, and the arrest of, certain lewd and seditious spreaders of false and slanderous bruits and rumours that it is intended to call down money to a lesser value, a thing utterly untrue and false.

1570, 26 Oct. Ludlow Castle.—Order from the Council of the Marches for the arrest of John Blease as a rebel, and to send him to appear before the Council on 8 Nov., and also to sequester all his lands and goods.

[1570], 3 Nov.—Petition to the bailiffs from Richard Higgons, that the town will bear his charges in a suit in which he has to appear before the Council of the Marches this day, which he has brought against Thomas Poope and others for defacing and pulling down a tower or bulwark at Creple Loode and for other injuries done against the town.

157$\frac{0}{1}$, 15 Jan. Ludlow.—Letter from David Lloid to Humphrey Onslow and Hugh Beynes, the bailiffs, about a suit brought against the town by Thomas Pope, in which they have to appear on 6 March.

157$\frac{0}{1}$, 3 March.—Letter to the same from Sir Andrew Corbett, appointing Monday next for the election of burgesses (for Parliament) in pursuance of letters from the Queen.

157$\frac{0}{1}$, 5 March.—Writ signed by Rowland Lacon, esq., sheriff, for the election.

157$\frac{0}{1}$, 24 March. Watlesburghe.—Letter to the bailiffs from E. Leighton and Edward Onslow, two justices, to whom an action respecting the seizure of a gelding had been referred by the Council of the Marches.

1571, 30 July, Hampton Court.—Copy of an order from the Queen for strict search in every parish by constables appointed for the purpose on 20 Aug. from 7 p.m. until 3 p.m. next day and on 12 Sept. and Oct.,

on account of disorders which have risen since the last winter, for all rogues, vagabonds, sturdy beggars, masterless men and all persons otherwise suspected, and to punish them by stocking and sharp and severe whipping, and then to convey them from constable to constable until they come to the place of their birth or last place of abode within three years; and this search to be repeated afterwards every fifteen or twenty days; "for ther is no greater disorder nor no greater roote of theftes, murders, pickinge, stealinge, debate and sedicion then ys in those vagabonds and that riseth of them." Endorsed with lists of names of persons appointed to make search in the several wards.

1571, 7 Sept.—Letter from Sir Andrew Corbett to the bailiffs, respecting his being ordered by the Privy Council to send up Lawrence Bannester, esq., of Wem, to the Court, with certain packs and packets of letters, which will hinder him from assisting them in the executing the subsidy; makes request also in behalf of Thomas Beech, late common serjeant of the town, who by that service is in danger, and who they well know is no wasteful person, riotous, or such like.

1571, 13 Sept.—Letter to the same from Charles Bouthe, Jevan Moris, and Richard Draper, three Commissioners appointed by the Court of Star-Chamber to examine witnesses in a certain case, and who have come to Shrewsbury for the purpose, complaining of the arrest of William Stringer, clerk to Charles Bouthe, for small debts, he being a privileged person in his attendance.

1571, 29 Sept., Walford.—Letter from Raphe Clive to the same, respecting a case of the passing of a counterfeit gold ten-shilling piece.

[1571], 18 Oct. From the Poole.—Letter to Humphrey Onslowe, esq., bailiff, from John Hewer [?] condoling on "the great losse and discomfort that happened unto you by the deathe of your bedfelow"; thanking him heartily "for my good cheere"; and asking his favour for a friend, the bearer, who is sued in the bailiffs' court by one David ap David Bobythen, but who has pleaded a foreign parley, "by reson the wordes were spoken at Poole out of the jurisdiccion of your court of Salop."

[1571 ?]—Letter to the bailiffs, from London, unsigned, about a grant of the fee farm rent paid to the Crown, which is being prepared for the Great Seal. "The suite I confesse doth not countervaile the chardges, yet in so hard a world we must be content with that wylbe had."

[1571 ?]—Petition to the same, for release from prison, from Nicholas Lont, glover, committed for misdemeanours in the church of St. Julian during divine service; after drink he cannot otherwise do, whereof he was full at the time; he has a great many of children, and a wife, who live only upon his hands.

1574 (?) Jan.—Petition to the same from the clerks of the four parishes praying "for God's love" that whereas at their worships' commandment they "did rynge in their severall churches upon Friday last past, being the daie of the monethe of the crowenacion" of Q. Elizabeth, they will see to their orators' pains, and those of other poor men ringers who not only left their work and business, but also spent money out of their purses. [Jan. 15, the coronation day, fell on Friday in 1574, and also in 1563 and 1580.]

1576, 21 Dec.—Certificate by Sir Pirce ap Richard, vicar of Northope, Flint, of his having this day buried Harry ap Richard, *alias* Harry Andrew, glover, who died in his parish.

1576, 28 Dec.—Certified copy of a letter from the Privy Council, enjoining the observance of abstinence and fish days, the neglect of which has led to most excessive and extreme prices of victuals, and also to the great decay of mariners and fishermen, a matter very prejudicial to the strength of the navy.

The Plague : Papers of various dates.

1537-8.—See under *Bailiffs' Accounts, supra.*

1563.—See under *Municipal Registers, supra.*

1576.—Letters to the bailiffs from Richard Prince and Andrew Corbett. These are printed in Owen and Blakeway I., 369-70.

Orders issued by the bailiffs : all swine and dogs to be avoided out of the town, upon pain of the forfeiture of the swine and killing of the dogs ; all cats to be killed : streets to be cleansed every Wednesday and Saturday, and all other places and back-lanes once weekly ; all mixens ("mixsones") and "waterloades" to be made and avoided, on pain of imprisonment : fires to be made every other night in divers places in every street, on pain of imprisonment. [See also 1576 *supra.*]

List of infected houses.

1593. Nov.—Letter from Edward Owen and Hum. Hughes, the bailiffs, to Mr. Thomas Brabant, pastor of Astley, and Robert Pawmer, urging that a collection be made for the relief of the people of Bishop's Castle, visited with the plague ; with a similar letter subjoined from Thomas Laughton ; and at the foot the reply of Brabant, who is sending about six strikes of corn, collected only from his people of Astley.

1631, Nov.—Petition from John Meighen, "corviser," to the bailiffs, &c., praying that in return for his viewing the sick at Kingsland and applying medicines and salves according to the directions oftentimes received from Mr. Boraston, and distributing such victuals as were sent, he may be forgiven such blood and affrays as he and his wife are in. (At first the petition was for "some reasonable satisfaction," but this was struck out, and the prayer for escape from punishment substituted !) Noted as being agreed to, 4 Nov.

1632.—See *infra*, under that year.

1578.—Representations to the bailiffs Thomas Sherar and Thomas Chorlton, signed by 18 burgesses, following up a former petition, calling for inquiry into the government of the town, and complaining specially of the illegal election of Roger Hayward and John of Gryffyth, *alias* Wynen, as common councillors, and of the misemployment of Robert Allen's bequest.

1578, 20 July. Pitchford.—Letter to the bailiffs from Adam Ottley, upon an alleged case of stealing a hedge-bill which had been brought before him.

[1580], 11 Nov. 22 Eliz.—Inventory of papers and money which Robert Ireland, esq., and John Perche, gent., delivered over in a chest in the Exchequer to the new bailiffs.

[1580 ?]—Petition to the bailiffs from Richard Hamond, tailor, who has been amerced in 3*s.* 4*d.* for taking stones out of the town-wall under the house where he dwells, which was done without his knowledge, and he has put others in their stead. Endorsed, "To be considered when we talke of felons' goodes."

[1581 ?]—Petition from Roger ap Loyde (?), a poor creature, now impotent by reason of having served seven times in the wars, who is now derided and mocked, calling him *Colepytt*, and he, for avoiding of their foolish derision, avoideth them, but now he is presented for affraying.

[1581 ?]—Letter to Adam Mytton from Edward Puc, praying him to stand his friend, and not to let him be committed to prison for revenging himself upon one who greatly abused him in his own house.

1581, 4 Dec.—Letter to the bailiffs from Edward Hussey. He has, according to their precept, called together the parishioners of Battlefield, who are, as is well known, very poor, and unable to yield any weekly contribution for relief of others. There are two widows who have relief at the writer's hands, and will be glad to have some further allowance from the bailiffs. Richard Sandbrooke's wife came to ask for fourpence more weekly; this the writer refers to the bailiffs' consideration, as the man has fourpence weekly from Mr. Poncebury, and has of his own one cow and a heifer, and seven sheep, besides geese and hens and good store of household stuff. There is also one John Richards that requires relief, but he has only been in the parish since Christmas last, and belongs to Upton Magna, whither he should be sent back again.

1581, 22 Dec.—Letter to the same from Edward Bulkeley, asking for relief for two persons.

158½ March.—Petition from John Smith, to whom the care of an orphan Richard Davies had been committed, against Thomas Studley for not paying a sum due; with an order of the bailiffs dated 10 March, "for that it dothe belonge to the dewtie of the majestrate to have care of the fatherles, the widow and the oppressed," providing that the payment shall be made, and for the boy's apprenticeship.

1583, 31 May.—Letter from the bailiffs to the wardens of the company of bakers, commending to them, as to all the brotherhoods, the case of John ap Rees, in behalf of whom Mr. Secretary Foxe, a burgess and one of the Council of the Marches, has written, and to whom a license has been granted to receive charitable gifts, he having by sudden rage of fire had his dwelling-house and all that he had consumed. Subjoined is a note that the bakers gave 3*s.* 8*d.*

1582, Aug.—Two bills for expenses connected with a journey to Hereford to secure a house for the judges at the last assizes, and for keep for the judges' horses and servants.

1582, 18 Sept. Plaishe.—Letter to the bailiffs from William Leighton desiring that certain suits against his cook, John Hassald, now in attendance upon him, may be stayed until the said cook's return to Shrewsbury.

1582, 29 Dec. Langley.—Letter to the same from Richard Lee, calling upon them to correct misdemeanours and great abuses perpetrated in an alehouse in Great Barwick, a former monition from him having had no effect. He is continually troubled with complaints that prentices and servants and other unthrifts do not only wilfully consume there in unlawful games all that they have themselves but also neglect their masters' business.

[1582.]—Petition to the same from Frances Andre, now in ward at the Cage, whose husband John Andre, to whom she was married in "Dyvelyn" (Dublin) three years ago, appears to repudiate her as not being his wife.

[1582.]—Petition to the same from Roger Phillips, baker, desiring that he may be satisfied for a diaper napkin and a box, which were sent with fine cakes to their worships, and which though often demanded cannot be obtained.

[1582.]—Letter from Samuel Wisbecke, an apprentice, to his uncle Robert Harding, praying him to get the bailiffs to cancel his indentures, that he may serve the rest of his years with some honest man who is able to keep him and teach him his occupation, for he is evil used; "I am so simpull in aparell that my master will not suffer me to goe any further then they nedes must . . . . . When I goe out they picke quarels on me, and report behind my bake in the stret that I spend ther goods and that I stele ther tymber." Endorsed with a report of the hearing of the case before the bailiffs; the master, Thomas Mynors, and his wife are enjoined to bear no malice towards the apprentice for his complaint; it appears that he is abused as well by his master for not having apparel as by the rudeness of the wife of the master; he is to have all manner of things which an apprentice ought to have for the wholesomeness of his body; any further complaint to be heard and remedied.

[1582.]—Petition to the same from Ellis Beddo, committed to ward, "for that he, contrary to your worshipes proclamation, did goe to sing at undue time of night."

There are several petitions from other persons committed for walking about at undue times at night.

[1582.]—Petition to the same from Thomas Jonson 17 years of age, an apprentice, who has been fined 10*s.* for fighting, for which he was grievously corrected by his master, praying to have the fine remitted, for that he is a very poor boy, in worse estate than any prentice in town, not having anything wherewith to satisfy the fine more than the clothes upon his back, which are not worth ten shillings.

[1582.]—Petition to the same from Thomas Baccus, "translator, alias cobler," praying that his misdemeanours may be forgiven, for which he lieth in ward with a mighty pair of bolts, and he will never offend them or any of their men.

[1582.]—Letter from John Parr to his father John Parr at Shrewsbury, begging that he and the writer's brother will become security for his appearance at the quarter sessions, to which he is committed by Sir Arthur Mainwaring, or else he will be sent to gaol (which will utterly discredit him for ever) upon a pretended charge of attempting to steal a horse. "This misfortune shall be a sufficient warninge for me hereafter to beware of evill companie."

1583, 27 June. Salop.—Letter to the Council of the Marches from William Tenche and Edward Owen, reporting their examination, as ordered, into an affray between one Richard Dryhurst and the watchmen on 22 June. The complaint of Dryhurst and a letter from the Council are with the letter.

1583, 6 Aug. Apley.—Letter from Rowland "Berker" to the bailiffs, William Tench and Eward Owen, thanking them for their willingness to let him have the Council House; whatever any other man will do for the same, he will do the like, and has appointed his brother Chambers and his brother James "Barker" to conclude with them. (The signature alone is autograph.)

1584, 1587–90.—Lists of prisoners, and of prison-fetters, &c. in the custody of the sergeants. There are also lists for 1610, 1618, 1630–95.

1584, 26 March. "From my howse nere Charing Crosse."—Letter to the bailiffs and schoolmaster from Sir T. Bromley, asking them to grant a lease of the tithes of Whitchurch to his servant Thomas Mytton.

1584, 7 Sept.—Copy of a letter from the bailiffs to the Council of the Marches, reporting that they have, as ordered, made diligent search for Thomas Sturry, esq., but that he is not to be found, and that although his dwelling is at Rosse hall in the liberty, where his wife and children now are, and he has lands and tenements, &c., yet these cannot be sequestered, as Richard Lea, esq., holds them as feoffee of trust. Further particulars with regard to the property follow on another paper.

1584, 27 Sept. Ludlow Castle.—Order from the Council of the Marches to Richard Lea, esq., to sequester all the property of Thomas Sturry, gent., which he holds in trust, the said Sturry having disobeyed all the orders made by the Council at the suit of Thomas Sherer, gent.

1584, 3 Oct.—"An inventory of suche things which remayne in the new little chest;" a short list of bonds and other documents. The last item refers to charitable collections made in the town: "ij acquittances for the collecc̃on of Hastings and Geneva."

1584, 8 Oct.—Copy of a further letter from the bailiffs to the Council of the Marches in the case of Thomas Sturry, reporting that all the lands, &c. were conveyed by Sturry's father, Thomas, to Rich. Lea and others for their own use, and not as feoffees of trust, and that Lea, as survivor, now holds them as his own.

1584, 4 Nov.—"Articles to be inquired of for the profit of the towne," respecting the making and selling of candles by various persons.

1584, 8, 20 Nov. London.—Two letters to the bailiffs from W. Weale and John Perche about their proceedings with reference to proposals for a new charter and obtaining a grant of the office of alnager.

[1584?]—Petition to the bailiffs, &c. from two constables of the "Monks Forrett" (Abbey Foregate) for some allowance for their pains, mentioning also that one of them spent twopence for candles "that night when the childe was fownde in St. Chadds churche portche."

1584$\frac{4}{5}$, March. London.—Letter to Adam Mytton from W. Weale and John Perche; are about to return home, being wearied with the little progress made in their "endles sute"; all the great personages with whom they have to deal are so busied in parliament matters, and, partly, their minds are so altered by the cross travail so earnestly made against the suit, that the writers are discouraged.

1585, 30 June. Harnege.—Letter to Adam Mytton from William Fouler; desires to know the state of the sickness in the town, that he may signify the same to the judges.

[1585?]—Things which the bailiffs and burgesses desire the Queen should be petitioned to grant to the town: i. the uniting to the town of the parish of the Cross wherein the Moncke Forriat is situated; ii. the site of the old decayed castle for a town gaol; iii. the confirmation of existing charters, the erection of a weekly court instead of a fortnightly one, and the providing endowment for a preacher. [These particulars were granted in the charter of 1586.]

158$\frac{6}{7}$, 6 March. Sarum.—Letter to the Sheriff of Salop, &c., from Henry, earl of Pembroke, appointed President of the Council of the Marches, ordering a muster of all men able to bear arms, and provision to be made for weapons, &c.

Printed in *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*, 2nd S., I. 432.

1588, 13 Aug.—Copy of a letter from the Privy Council to the Lord President of the Marches. Whereas advertisement has been received that the Spanish fleet, having taken their course northward, is come to a place called Mor[a]y Frith, and has landed some men, and it is not yet known whether their purpose is to join with the evil affected of that realm, or only to stay and take in fresh water and other necessaries, therefore the 600 footmen and 32 lances, directed to be ready for northern service in the county of Salop, are to be prepared to be sent to any place that may be appointed upon any warning.

1589, 7 Nov.; 1590, 15 Apr.—Two letters to the bailiffs of Shrewsbury from Richard Paule and Hugh Savage, the bailiffs of Bridgnorth, complaining of the illegal taking of toll at Shrewsbury from burgesses of that town.

1590, 2 June.—Letter to the bailiffs from William Gryffith and Robert Brownesword, bailiffs of a town not named, complaining of like illegal taking of toll from burgesses of "this poore towne."

1591, 7 Aug. At Sheffield Lodge.—Letter from Gilbert [earl of] Shrewsbury to the justices of peace in the county, urging collections in each township for the relief of Shiffnal, where both the town and church have been almost entirely consumed by fire, and suggesting the giving a license to the inhabitants to gather benevolence in two shires.

1592.—There is a file of the bailiffs' papers for this year in a very tattered condition, containing coroner's inquisitions, petitions, warrants, &c. Amongst them is a fragment of a copy of a letter from the Council of the Marches to the bailiffs, respecting a suit brought by Francis Englefield to recover some lands granted by the Queen to the Earl of Essex as forfeited by the attainder of Sir Francis Englefield, Knt., for high treason. With the coroner's inquisitions there are inventories and valuations of the goods of two persons who drowned themselves.

1592, July. Cause Castle.—Letter from John Thynne to the bailiffs, offering himself for election as burgess in parliament, to which he has been moved by his good friends in the incorporation, and which he the rather desires "for that my aunsetors weare neare inhabitauntes to Shrewsburye, and for that I conceave a speciall good likynge of your towne and the good governmente thereof." [He was not elected.]

1592, Oct.—Order for return of names of all ale and beer sellers, who are to be charged not to use any manner of game, as tables, cards, dice, "slydethrist" otherwise called "shuffelbord," upon pain of being put down; until further order be taken for the suppressing the great number of ale-houses, being one of the great sores of this commonwealth.

1592, 28 Dec., at Hampton Court.—Letter from the Earl of Essex to the bailiffs, &c., recommending his servant Robert Wright, who is thoroughly known to them, for election as a burgess in parliament.

[1592.]—Letter, written from the Court but not dated, to the bailiffs, signed "W. Burghley," desiring that out of the bequest of 100*l.* now coming to the town by the bequest of Sir Thomas White, a portion may be granted to Thomas Browne of Shrewsbury. "What the man is, how he hath and doth behave himself, what service he hath done to her maiestie and the whole state . . . . is well knowne unto you."

The bequest referred to is the tenth share of money for charitable loans, left to 24 corporate towns, to be taken in turn, and the first occasion for Shrewsbury's receiving it was in 1593. This letter therefore belongs probably to 1592 or 1593. Browne's service in discovery of a supposed plot was in 1571, and he was again busy in 1574. *See* Vol. V. of *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*

159$\frac{2}{3}$, 11 March. From the Court.—Letter to the bailiffs from the Earl of Essex, thanking them for the election of his servant Wright as burgess in Parliament.

Owen and Blakeway, I., 550, where for *Eynes* read *Eyres*.

1593, 15 June. Beawdley.—Letter to the same from M. Sherer, advising them as to steps to be taken to solicit the resort to Shrewsbury of the Council of the Marches.

1593, 8 Oct.—Letter to the same from Richard Herbert and another, certifying that John Mytton, gent., is assessed in Montgomeryshire for the subsidy granted in the last parliament.

1593, 31 Oct. "From my house at Coton in Wemes parish."—Letter to the same from Richard Harrison, expressing his readiness to cease sueing (being bidden by Christ to forgive those that trespass) Robert Kempe upon a bond for money due from his deceased brother John Kempe; will send an attorney to pay what is due from himself to some in Shrewsbury for Mr. John Newport, of Wellington, deceased.

1593, 19 Nov. Grinshill.—Letter to Mr. Laughton, "chiefe precher of the towne of Salop," from John Lawrence, minister of Grinshill, with a list of contributions of rye received for relief of the poor people of Bishop's Castle. "To amplifie it myselfe I am not able, for my stipend for servinge the cure beinge but iiij^{li} is verie litle (you know) for me to live upon, and not sufficient but that I take paynes in teachinge of children, and thereby gett something altheugh not much."

1593, 21 Nov. Ludlow Castle.—Letter to the same from the Council of the Marches, signed by W. Leyghton and H. Touneshead, desiring that a collection may be made on behalf of the inhabitants of Church Stretton who have had their dwelling-houses and goods consumed by fire. On 20 March following, in reply to a letter from Fr. Phillipps, 46*s.* 10*d.* were paid over as the amount of the collection.

[159$\frac{3}{4}$.] At Mr. Norton's, at the Blue Boar in Bookbinder Lane, London.—Letter from Thomas Holand, apothecary, to Mr. Fouler at Harnege Grange, asking his advice as to proceedings, for some alleged wrong, against the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, whose disobedience he had showed to Sir George Carey and Sir Thomas Heneage, being at dinner with one of the sheriffs of London. "I will set them out in print, as you shall se very shortly, that all England may singe and laugh at ther knavery."

159$\frac{3}{4}$, 19 Jan. Salop.—Letter from Adam Mitton to William Fowler, esq., in answer to the preceding letter, which refers to a quarrel in the streets on a Sunday night when Holland was "very farre overseene with drinke."

159$\frac{3}{4}$, 17 Jan. "From Bu[shop's] Castle."—Letter to the bailiffs, signed by eight persons (bailiff and aldermen) with hearty thanks for the contribution of 20*l.* 0*s.* 2*d.*, for the relief of their poor people, specially acknowledging the help given by the preachers, Mr. Laughton and Mr. Prise.

159$\frac{3}{4}$, 11 Feb. Park Hall.—Letter to the bailiffs from Ro. Pouel, the High Sheriff, about his endeavours to procure the holding the assizes at Shrewsbury.
Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc., 2nd S., V. 294.

1594, 9 Oct.—Letter from the bailiffs to William Fowler, one of the Council of the Marches and steward of the town; about the murder of one Thomas Lacon in a street-quarrel; with a letter from Jo. Croke and Fowler, at Ludlow, 11 Oct., and another from Fowler alone, 13 Oct., relating to the enquiry.

1594, 2 Nov. Haughmond.—Letter to the bailiffs from Rowland Barker, complaining of the assessment of a servant for the subsidy, who is not liable.

1594, 19 Nov. Cond[over].—Letter to the same from H. Touneshend, desiring postponement of the hearing of a case on account of the absence of witnesses.

1594, 28 Nov. Cudington.—Letter to the bailiffs from Rondulphe Brereton, George Bostocke, and Roundale Dod, respecting the due care of certain assignments of trust kept in the exchequer at Shrewsbury for the benefit of the four daughters of John Heath, their kinsman, deceased.

1594, 22 Dec.—Letter to the same from a poor minister, John Parker, thanking them earnestly for the collection, at the motion of Mr. Thomas Laughton, of 2*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.* for his relief: "being left and forsaken of this people, and not above x or xii persons of 500 families performinge the payment of my promised stipend, and all by reason I cannot accomplish the servyce requyred at my hands."

1594.—Papers relating to the weekly assessment for relief of the poor, with a list of defaulters in St. Chad's parish.

1594.—Pleadings before the Council of the Marches in a case of Pigeon *v.* Owen and Hughes, 36 Eliz.

159$\frac{4}{5}$, March.—Copies of three orders from the Privy Council for the providing horses for the conveyance from place to place of Captains Jenkin Conway, John Goring, and William Mustion, or Mastion, who are appointed to conduct companies of footmen for service in Ireland; with an order in the case of the last-named to the lord mayor of London and others for the impressing of a chirurgion and a drum for his company. 1 Apr.—Copy of letter from Will. Chandos and Henry Poole at Gloucester, requiring the providing of post-horses for Capt. Mastian (*sic*), and lodging and diet for his company of 94 footmen, who are to embark at West Chester for Ireland.

159$\frac{4}{5}$, 19 March. Dublin Castle.—Pass for William Mynors, gent., to repair to the Court in England.

1595, 7 Apr.—Letter to the bailiffs from Thomas Leighton; understands that one has come to Shrewsbury with commission to press a drum for service in Ireland, and is desirous to take Roger Moynes, who

has been always employed by the writer as a drum for the training of his soldiers; and whereas he is charged to be ready with all his soldiers at an hour's warning for the Queen's service, he desires that the bailiffs will take care that the said Roger Moynes be not pressed.

1595, 11 Apr.—Letter to the bailiffs from Richard Prynce, asking that a collection may be made at the next sermon at St. Chad's for the relief of a very poor man, Thomas Shaw, aged 91, who is not able to work.

[1595.]—Letter to the same from Richard Anderton, a sherman, desiring that a general watch may be kept this night for John Raban, a carrier dwelling in "Bernyngam"; he and the whole crew went to Tong on Wednesday, yesternight to Bruton in Cheshire; this night they are appointed to be at Chester, whither the writer will ride presently, for so he has sent word to Mr. Waadde the secretary of her Majesty's Council. [This was found among the papers of 1571, but must relate to the business of the following letter.]

1595 [Apr.].—Letter to the same (very roughly and indistinctly written) from Richard Anderton, a prisoner in ward, demanding to know the cause of his commitment, and that he may be released forthwith to go to London to attend upon his master lord Hunsdon upon St. George's day. He came post with his commission concerning certain traitors that John Raban conveyed from London. Two of the said traitors he followed on foot to Hampton; on Wednesday night last they all lay at Tunge; on Thursday they separated, but the writer brought two, one being the chief traitor, Mr. Jonson, Master of Arts, brought up at Oxford, well known to Mr. Jordan, preacher and minister of Wyllynton parish, and the other unknown, to Shrewsbury on Thursday at 11 o'cl. at night, but could at that time find no bailiffs or sergeants, and the traitors "went over thys brygge to what place I know not" [and escaped].

The description of Jonson, the Oxford M.A., follows on a separate scrap of paper: about 30 years of age, a proper fine man with a yellow beard, a "toppynge" hat, a doublet of black lye grogram laid on with black lace, a pair of old (?) boots, and a gold ring on his fourth finger: Mr. Jurdan of Welyngton knoweth the traitor: "nowe rydden towards the Poole, as I understand; therefore let the sheroffe rid after."

1595, 19 Apr. Whitehall.—Copy of an order for the supply of post-horses to William Rowland, gent., employed in her Majesty's affairs to the town of Carnarvon.

1595, 30 Apr. Greenwich.—Similar order with regard to William Wyne, esq, going to the county of Carnarvon.

1595, 18 May. Ludlow Castle.—Letter to the bailiffs from W. Leyghton and Thomas Cornwaill, two members of the Council of the Marches, desiring the stay of a suit respecting the title of the ground called Kingsland and the right of common there, until the time previously fixed, viz. 18 June, by the Council for the ordering of the matter by Richard Corbet, esq. and Francis Newport, esq.

1595, 25 May. Okes.—Letter to the same from W. Sherer respecting some letters sent by him to the Council of the Marches.

1595, 3 June. Harnege.—Letter to the same from William Fouler, on behalf of his friend John Shelvocke, who having had his house and barn, with all his goods to the value of 60*l.*, besides his books, utterly

consumed by fire, has obtained letters placards from the Council in the Marches to take the charitable benevolence of well-disposed people. Desires that Mr. Lawton and the rest of the ministers may be asked to cause his letters to be read in their several parishes, that he may receive some relief, and that the magistrates will show him what favour they can.

1595, 8 July. Mariton.—Letter to the same from Rychard Lloyd, John Hockleton and George Harries. Forasmuch as it hath pleased God to visit their vicar with sickness, so that he cannot do the requisite duties, such as he usually did accomplish, they have thought it very necessary to procure some other minister to supply his place, sufficient for learning, honest for behaviour, and sound and zealous for religion, and finding their neighbour, the bearer hereof, Mr. Jervis Thomas, a graduate of the university of Oxford, and a qualified preacher, they request that he may be approved to supply the necessity, not in any sort to dispossess the Vicar, neither to diminish his living, being but poor and having no other means; but if it should please the Almighty to call the poor man away, that then this bearer should succeed him, according to the desire of the parish. [The name of Jervis Thomas is not found in Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.]

1595, 11 Nov. High Ercall.—Letter to the same from Sir Francis Newport.—Hearing that they intend to build a new market-house he commends to them a mason of approved skill and honesty, Walter Hancocke. It is not unknown to them that the writer has had great cause to make trial of workmen, and therefore can well write of his own knowledge and experience that they cannot match the man in these parts in science and judgment of workmanship, or in plainness and honesty to deal withal; prays that he may undertake the work more in good will to the town than to him, although he loves the man well; knows that if Mr. Justice Owen were in the country, he would say as much on Hancock's behalf.

[1595.]—Petition to the same from Evan Davyes, curate of St. Mary's, who had long served under Mr. John Tompkys the late minister, and was appointed by the preceding bailiffs to serve in the same place after his decease, for one quarter, which expired at Michaelmas day last; but the bailiff of the school, the usual payer of the minister's stipend, refuses to pay him.

[1595.]—Petition to the same from Adam Bradshaw for the yearly allowance of 26*s*. 8*d*. for keeping the clock in the Booth Hall.

[1595 ?]—Twelve minute "Interrogatories to be ministered to Marie Modlicot alias Higgons," as to her attendance upon her brother Richard Modlicott during an illness, tending to show that she had been bribed to poison him, by some "herb, powder, root, confection, oil, ointment or other thing." A letter from Richard Modlicott to Adam Mytton about some law proceedings, dated 19 Apr., is written by him as "a languishing patient."

[1595 ?]—Petition to the bailiffs from five persons who, having a special care and love towards the maintenance of artillery, as a game not only allowed by the laws of the realm of England but also most laudable to be exercised by all men, did of their own proper costs and charges erect for the parish of St. Julian's in the common lane near to the Hermitage, in the liberties, a pair of butts, complaining that one Thomas Griffiths (son of Griffith Lewis, the common apparitor or

somner for the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, whose house called the Hermitage is accompted a house to retain people of bad behaviour) did pull down and subvert the said butts, to the only intent to suppress that good exercise and to maintain bowling; they pray that he may not only receive condign punishment, but may erect the butts again.

159$\frac{5}{6}$, 24 Feb.—Letter to the bailiffs from William Fouler, recommending two persons to be licensed to sell ale; will not write on the behalf of any but such as he takes to be honest and of a good conversation and behaviour in their house.

1596, 12 Sept. Greenwich.—Copy of an order for post-horses for Capt. Henry Tolliet going to Chester to embark for Ireland.

1596, 26 Oct. Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street.—Copy of a letter to the justices of peace in the county of Salop from William Peryam and Matthew Ewens, respecting the Queen's instructions for the providing for the due bringing of corn to market and mitigating the great price thereof.

[1596-7 ?]—[Ten] "Articles injoyned by the Q. Majesty uppon her subjects for thavoidinge of God's wrathe against this realme," in a time of dearth and scarcity. Prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays; fast days to be observed, and that which is saved by sparing to be given to the poor; collections to be made; persons not to break up house and leave their habitations, nor discharge servants for [the sake of] sparing; &c.

1597, 14 Apr. Whitehall.—Copy of an order for post horses for Capt. Crofts appointed to go into Ireland with 100 men levied in the counties of Montgomery and Radnor.

1597, 30 July.—Similar order for John Welsore.

1597, 25 Apr.—Copy of a letter to the justices in the county from Will. Peryam and Matth. Ewens, for a return of the number of alehouses, in pursuance of commandment from the Lord Keeper for utterly suppressing their unnecessary number, and that none be henceforth suffered to continue but such as shall be very needful and well ordered.

1597.—Two letters, from London, to Mr. Webb and Mr. Gibbons, the bailiffs, the one signed by Edw. Bulkeley and Th. Laughton, dated 10 May, the other from Laughton alone (Bulkeley's son-in-law) "from my house in Great St. Bartholomew's," dated 2 July. Having been asked to find a preacher for the town, they have endeavoured to do so but those whom they thought qualified decline the place on account of the stipend being too slender for these hard times. They proposed the uniting of St. Mary's to the preachership, but have had no reply to their proposal. Laughton is now so infirm and ill that he desires to be eased of the burden of finding a preacher and that the bailiffs will take it upon themselves; but he recommends Mr. Thomas Higgons who is near them and well known to them.

159$\frac{7}{8}$, March.—Papers relating to the purchase of 600 quarters of wheat, "manckcorn," rye (200 quarters) and barley by the Corporation of Shrewsbury from one Thomas Oxwick of Walsingham, Norfolk, for transportation by sea to Bristol, and thence by the Severn, for the relief of the poor people of Shrewsbury, in a time of scarcity. Petition from the Corporation to the Council of the Marches for warrants from the Privy Council for free transportation. Letter from Thomas Browne, an agent employed in procuring the corn; in consequence of 4,000

quarters of rye being sent to Ireland, the price of rye has risen from 30*s.* to 34*s.* a quarter, to be had of the merchants at Bristol by Bristol measure (which is better than London or Winchester) at 40*s.* Copies of other letters and instructions.

1598.—Proceedings in a long suit concerning tolls levied in Shrewsbury, 40 Eliz.

1599, 16 Apr.—Letter from the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, John Perche and Richard Dawes, to Thomas Brabant, the minister of Astley, notifying the appointment of overseers with the churchwardens, for relief of the poor in St. Mary's parish (of which Astley is a member) according to the Act of Parliament, and desiring a return of the poor persons to be relieved in Astley; with his answer subjoined, giving a list of seven people relieved by the churchwardens and overseers in the preceding year.

1600, 2 June. Clifford's Inn.—Letter from Nicholas Gibbons to the bailiffs, respecting a case as to the staying of some corn from crossing the bridge until the pontage-toll was paid, whereas it was not due until the bridge was crossed.

1601, 31 May. Greenwich.—Copy of a letter from the Privy Council to the High Sheriff and Justices of Salop. A great part of the Welsh cloths which are taken to London are bought by French merchants, and of late years fault has been found with them after their being transported into France, whereby the cloth of this realm that heretofore had reputation to be the truest and best made, hath not only been discredited, but the French King hath taken occasion to confiscate all those English cloths that have been found, upon trial by water or otherwise, to shrink, cockle, or be in any wise defective; therefore if the abuses in making of false cloth be not corrected, the trade will be in peril to be overthrown. And the chief abuse being in colouring defects by stretching defective cloths upon tenters, a thing forbidden by Act of Parliament, therefore not only the use of tenters in stretching cloths or cottons shall not be suffered, but all ropes, rings and wrenches to stretch cloths, with the heads and lower bars of the tenters and all other engines and means for straining of cloth either in length or breadth, shall be abolished and quite taken away.

temp. Eliz.—A petition to the bailiffs signed by 17 persons prays that they will without delay see that the arrears of the fee-farm rent to the Crown and the proffers in the Exchequer are paid, as otherwise the charter of the town may be forfeited.

temp. Eliz.—Letter from H. Touneshend, the steward of Shrewsbury, to the bailiffs, bidding them to come prepared with their charters to justify before the Council of the Marches their imprisoning of a person who has petitioned against them; the Castle at Ludlow, 24 Feb.

temp. Eliz.—Copy of an order from the Council of the Marches to the bailiffs of Gloucester, to appear at Ludlow Wednesday after Midlent Sunday to answer to a complaint of the burgesses of Shrewsbury for arresting merchandise passing by the Severn for toll, contrary to their privileges.

temp. Eliz.—Petition from John Gyttyns the younger, for discharge from imprisonment, having been committed "for playing at the foot balle upon Shroftusdaie, and for throwinge the balle from hime whene the serigent Hardinge demaunded the same."

temp. Eliz.—Petition from Margaret Freman for release "oute of this misserable prison" of the Burgess Gate, where she lies upon the

bare boards, overpressed with irons, and ready to starve with hungers, justly punished for speaking certain idle words of Mr. Tonks [Tomkys] the public preacher.

temp. Eliz.—Petition in the name of the burgesses: 1. that the pasture called Behind the Walls may be enclosed this winter season from rooting with swine, and that the inhabitants may have their cattle there: 2. that the pastures be not let to any private person, but kept for the use of the poor burgesses, after the rate of 10*s.* a beast summering: 3. for that some think it more beneficial to set it to such as will give most for it, "for answere therto I say . . . . so many of you as be of that mynde have small regard to the due consederacion of the comon welthe, for ys yt a comon welthe to oppress ourselffs with our owne, and not to be comforted and cherished by the same?" 4. That the poor may have the benefit and partiality be avoided, let the names of the most needful, who have kine to be relieved, be put in a bag to the number of 100 more or less, and so many be taken out for the first year as the pasture will well bear, and the rest remain for the next year.

[1605?]—Petition to the bailiffs from William Gylson, milner, imprisoned for profaning the Sabbath-day, in carrying of meal and travelling with his ware, contrary to their proclamation.

1608, 23 Nov. York House.—Letter to the bailiffs from Lord Ellesmere, the Chancellor, recommending a petition from Thomas Higgons, gent., "whoes father I knew long, and loved for the good I knew in him; and I hear no lesse good report of this his sonne."

1614.—Petition to Richard Hunt and Thomas Gardner, the bailiffs, from Thomas Stubbe, complaining of the noisome condition of the lane leading from St. Alkmund's vicarage to the Hey Street, one end of which was granted to the parishioners of St. Julian's, and by that means stopped, and made a mixen place and worse, and offering to take the place at a yearly rent, and he will pave it and drain it, "and withal will plante that odious place with odoriferous herbes and flowers." An order to view and report is subjoined, but apparently nothing was done, for in 1622-3 there is a petition from George Hunt complaining of the same lane as being most vilely and unseemly polluted, and that there is a noisome mixen continually haunted with swine.

1615, 28 Aug.—Pardon under the great seal to John Davies, miiler, for knowingly receiving and harbouring one William Dennys who on 28 Nov. 1613, broke into the Exchequer of Salop, and stole 29*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*

162$\frac{2}{3}$, Feb.—Returns, in pursuance of an order from the High Commission, to the bailiffs of the quantities of overplus-corn remaining in the liberties and in the parish of St. Julian which can be brought to market.

1623, 1 Sept. Shiffnal manor.—Letter to the bailiffs from Edward Bromley, complaining that they have not punished one Walter Grynsell, tanner, for shameful speeches offered by him in open court to the writer's cousin Thomas Owen, the town clerk, and desiring that they will bind Grynsell over to appear at the next gaol delivery, and meanwhile to be of good behaviour.

1628, 9 June. Chirbury.—Letter to the bailiffs from George Bray and Hugh Whalley, churchwardens of Chirbury, informing them that

on last Sabbath day, 8 June, an instrument was fixed on the church door by the apparitor of the Bishop of Hereford, intimating to the patrons that Mr. Davies, late vicar, had resigned the vicarage; which they therefore notify, as the advowson has been conferred under the Great Seal on the bailiffs and burgesses.

1629.—Petition to the bailiffs, Rich. Gibbons and Will. Rowley, from Peter Studley, curate of St. Chad's, desiring that in consideration of his, for peace sake, giving up his claim to some small tithes in Frankwell which the Free School has deprived him of, by his consent, because he has not leisure nor liking to attend upon troublesome suits, they will grant him 44*s.* yearly to make up the rent of 7*l.* 4*s.* which he has to pay yearly to the Crown for his Easter book and for some pastures belonging to the town, and towards which they have for the last three years given him 5*l.* yearly. In this they will settle peace between the Church and the School, and gratify the request of the Bishop and the Chancellor. He also asks that they will pay 53*s.* 2*d.* which Mr. Typton hath caused to be spent in a needless suit, for which he will forego the two last years' rents of tithes, for which he has not recovered one penny.

1632, March.—Petition from Thomas Lloyd, vicar of St. Alkmond's, to be admitted a burgess without fine, he being a widower, and not likely to have any issue, in consideration of his having ever since the plague began read morning prayer daily within his parish, where the people of the town daily resort in a greater number than they formerly did, to his great danger. Agreed to, 30 March.

163$\frac{4}{5}$, March.—Petition from Richard Davyes, a "trowman" (or boatman), praying that he may have his burgesship freely, in consideration of his assisting to break the ice in the river when the last great frost went away that it might have passage through the Stone Bridge, bringing timber, &c., when part of the bridge fell, and his saving a woman from drowning. Granted, 23 March.

1639, 3 July, Ludlow.—Letter from Tym. Tourneur (the Recorder) to Thomas Jones, Esq., mayor. "The assises nowe drawe neare. You know how you were blamed the last assises that you had not done fitting observances to my lords the judges of our circuite in producing to them our new charter, and presenting them with velvet coates, or to make them coates; the things to be done are neither chargeable nor trowblesome. The displeasure that may encrease by the neglect may be verie prejudiciall to our towne, and confirme our censure of pride. It is unsaffe and indiscreete for us to contend with judges. I pray you consult with the company about it, and resolve on a course to recover that we have lost."

1641.—Petition from the fraternity or company of corvisours, representing that in other cities and corporations, market-places and certain days are assigned for the open searching, sealing, and selling of leather, in accordance with the law, but that for want of such in Shrewsbury, tanners sell leather there in private, some half-tanned and some half-dried, and the searchers and sealers visit and seal privately, by which covert dealing much ill-tanned and bad-conditioned leather is vented, and the petitioners and others defrauded and deceived. They pray therefore that a fitting market-place and a certain weekly market-day be appointed for the public searching, sealing and selling of all leather. Endorsed with an order on 12 Nov. 1641 for consideration and report.

1644, March-Oct.—Warrants and orders respecting the collection of assessments for Prince Rupert's forces, with depositions of many persons respecting their income, including one William Boraston, gentleman and practitioner in physic.

1660.—A roll of eighty-six declarations, on parchment, chiefly by tradesmen of Shrewsbury, of their laying hold of the King's pardon as promised in the Breda Declaration. Among the signatures are those of Capt. Edward Turner and of several soldiers in his company, Richard Bagot, esq., Daniel Jenks, gent., Robert Lathropp, gent., Humphrey Mackworth, esq., John Evanson, gent., Richard Smith of Great Ness, gent., Edward Baudewin of Diddlebury, esq., Gabriel Lloyd of Poole, gent., Francis Tallents, clerk, Richard Heath, vicar of St. Alkmond's, Moses Leigh, clerk, and Creswell Tayleur of Rodington, esq.

The list of names is printed, with notes by Rev. N. Auden, in *Trans. of Shropsh. Archæol. Soc.*, 2nd S. II. 144–158.

1661, 15 Nov.—Copy of a petition from the Corporation to the House of Commons, praying that nothing may be done to hinder the working of the coal mines at Madeley, Broseley, and Bentall, which have been erroneously represented as being in danger of being wholly exhausted, by the introduction of coal from other places, which is being endeavoured by the making the brook Stower in Staffordshire and Worcestershire navigable, for private interests upon pretence of public good.

1688, 8 Dec.—Copy of a letter [from the Mayor] to a peer, informing him that the town is open and ungarrisoned, and that he can enter without any opposition.

Owen and Blakeway, I., 499.

1798, 6 Nov.—Printed form of license for aliens, filled up with the name of John Juison, licensed to reside in Shrewsbury for one month; in pursuance of the proclamation for registering of aliens.

A bundle of tattered and imperfect market accounts of sales of cattle and horses, extending from 1525 to 1668 in occasional years, possesses interest, not merely from their being probably unique in point of date, but from their giving descriptions of the animals, with prices, and names of buyers and sellers.

W. D. Macray.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF SIR WALTER O. CORBET, OF ACTON REYNALD, BART.

At Acton Reynald, Shropshire, the seat of Sir Walter Orlando Corbet, Bart. (representative of a Norman family settled in the same county from the time of the Conquest), there is a small collection of early documents, out of which all that belong to the period ending with the close of the reign of Henry III. are noticed in the following list, with a selection from those of later date. The total number preserved amounts to 287 up to 1507, the year of the accession of Henry VIII., while of subsequent reigns, especially of that of Elizabeth, the number of title-deeds is large. But the results of examination are, on the whole, somewhat disappointing, although much of local interest occurs. There are no materials for general history. Of the Civil War period there is nothing; a period which from the part taken by different members of the family on different sides might have been expected to have rewarded search. But possibly there may have been destruction of documents and papers when the chief house of the family at Moreton Corbett (which still testifies in its ruins to its former importance and beauty) was, after occupation by a parliamentary garrison in 1644, dismantled and abandoned.

The charters relating to the abbeys of Haughmond and Lilleshall, and the little known one of Stratt Marchell in Montgomeryshire, are of special interest, and help to supplement the meagre accounts found elsewhere. And the small and obscure hospital of St. Leonard at Clattercote, near Cropredy, in Oxfordshire, said by Tanner to have been for leprous brethren, is here found described as a hospital for sick women. Examples of manumissions are found in 1350 and 1406. The lease of parish property at Shawbury in 1533, and the license for the churchyard at Broseley in 1595, are interesting. The deeds relating to the town of Northampton would not have been looked for here.

W. D. Macray.

August 1895.

The earliest deed is one of the reign of Henry I.; a grant of Hortun (near Wem) by Hugh Fitz-Richard to William Macer, or Macrus:— "Hugo filius Ricardi omnibus hominibus suis Francis et Anglicis salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et concessisse Willelmo Macro et heredibus suis adtenendum de me et de heredibus meis in feudo et hereditate Hortunam pro servicio unius militis, et si plus valet quam x libras in bene (*sic*) et in pace teneat, si minus de mea propria hereditate ei perficiam. Hujus donationis et concessionis sunt testes: M. uxor ejus, Willelmus filius suus, et Ricardus filius suus, et Adeliza filia sua, et Reinaldus frater domini, et Engenulfus, et Walchelinus, et Osbertus de Luncecumba, et Henricus filius ejus, et Rogerus Pincerna, et Rogerus Cocus, et Willelmus de Herefordia, et Efrardus, et Piritunus, et Herveus Guun, et Randulfus Macrus, et Ruellanus Macrus, et Iwennus Macrus, et Lanbertus, et Rodbertus de Duneuic, et Willelmus de Fretai, et Gaufredus de Clint.'" A small fragment of a large white seal is attached.

The next is probably of the time of Henry II., early in his reign ; a grant from Simon de Beauchamp (who died 9 Joh. 1207) to Simon de Pateshille of rent from the mill at Linslade, Buckinghamshire :—" Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Simon de Bello Campo dedi et hac carta mea confirmavi Simoni de Pateshille pro homagio et servicio suo duas marcatas redditus in molendino meo de Linchelade, tenendas, de me et de heredibus meis sibi et heredibus suis libere et quiete et solute ab omni servicio per una (*sic*) calcaria deaurata, vel per quatuor denarios, annuatim reddendo ad Pascha, pro omni servicio. Has autem duas marcatas redditus ego et heredes mei warentizabimus prefato Simoni et heredibus suis, et si forte eis warentizare illas non poterimus, eis escambium plenarie faciemus inde de aliis terris nostris in Bedefordsire, et de hoc redditu ipsum Simonem saisivi, et homagium suum inde cepi. Coram his testibus: Waltero Ruffo, Roberto de Barentin, Henrico de Boheles, Galfredo Ruffo, Pagano filio Brien, Eustachio le Mordand', Jerino de la Lega, Godefredo Ruffo, Rogero de Wichetone, Radulfo de Grimescote, Willelmo Druelle, Nicholao filio Michaelis, Roberto de Langeforde, Radulfo Druelle, David de Haclntone (*sic*), Henrico de Norbois, Henrico de Haclintone, Roberto de Arundel, Hugone de Blosseville, Roberto de Wahille, Michaele de Raustone, et multis aliis. Item Johanne de Panpbenham, Simone Parcesvil, Waltero de Boheles, Michaele Hachun, et multis aliis."

Confirmation by Henry II. to Haughmond Abbey of grants from William Fitzalan, the founder :—" H. Rex Angl. et Dux Norm. et Aquit. et Com. And. archiepiscopis, episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justiciariis, vicecomitibus, ministris, et omnibus hominibus et fidelibus suis Francis et Anglis, salutem. Sciatis me concessisse et carta mea presenti confirmasse ecclesie Sancti Johannis Evangeliste de Hageman et canonicis in ea Deo servientibus quicquid Willelmus filius Alani rationabiliter eidem ecclesie dedit et carta sua confirmavit, videlicet terram de Pipringues cum omnibus pertinentiis suis et omnibus libertatibus ejus in campis et pascuis et aquis, liberam ab omnibus terrenis consuetudinibus, auxiliis, operacionibus, scutagiis, exercitibus, danegeldis, hidagiis, hidegeldis, et placitis, et communitatem propriis animalibus suis in omnibus pasturis que pertinent ad villam de Stoches, in bosco et plano, et alneto, sicut animalia Aveline matris Willelmi filii Alani aliquo tempore eandem communitatem melius habuerunt, et ecclesiam de Stoches cum terra que ad eandem ecclesiam pertinet, et terram de Donstona quam tenuit Marescot, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, quam ipse Willelmus eis dedit assensu Isabel uxoris sue,* et Naguinton cum pertinentiis suis, et Hopelege cum pertinentiis suis. Quare volo et firmiter precipio quod predicti canonici teneant hec predicta bene et integre et libere et quiete et honorifice, sicut carte ejusdem Willelmi filii Alani testantur. T. Thoma Canc., Roberto de Donstanvilla, Man. Biset, Joscelino de Baillol, Roberto filio com. de Legr., Apereo (?) Leons."

Fitz Alan's grant of Hopley, confirmed in the preceding charter, is found here, but not the other grants. It is as follows : " W. fil. Al. omnibus filiis matris ecclesie salutem. Notum sit vobis Osbertum de Hoptun concessisse et dedisse quod sui juris erat in Hopeleia fratribus Hamonensis ecclesie in perpetuam elemosinam, et Hugo Hose pro

* In Banks' *Dormant and Extinct Baronage* this Isabel [de Sai] is described as wife of the first William Fitz Alan, father of the donor to the abbey, and the donor's mother Avelina, mentioned above, is omitted. Isabel is correctly described in G. E. C's *Complete Peerage*, Vol. III., 1890.

anima Ricardi de Merchemerle, et Heldestoc pro animabus patris et matris suc calumpniam quam habebat in predicta terra dimisisse in sempiternum, ut libere et quiete ab omni seculari servicio, in bosco et plano, in viis et in aquis, et in omnibus locis, quantum ad istos et ad predictam terram pertinet, prenominati fratres possideant. Et scitote Osbertum de Hopt[un] etiam de terra sua de Hop[tun] dimidium ferdellum dedisse in elemosinam tam liberam et quietam sicut ipse liberius in elemosinam dare potuit, me hoc concedente et confirmante quantum ad meum servitium pertinet, R. filio Aluri concedente et testificante, cum his aliis, Johanne Extraneo, Hemming sacerdote, et Waltero Hose, et R. filio Siwar, et Al. filio Oliver, et Hugone filio Albert, cum aliis pluribus. Valete." And the grant of Hopley is made also to the church and canons of "Hagamon" by John de Merchemelega, who leaves his body "predicte ecclesie de Hagamon ubicunque obiero, nisi in Essexia tantum, sepeliendum." The witnesses to his charter are William fitz Alan, Hugh Panton, Hugh de Sai, Peter de Mortun and Barthoiomew his son, Odo de Hodenent (*sic*), Robert de Sai, Jordan de Hespele, Hugh de Lescofort, Roger de Hefkeston, Walter de Hoptun.

Temp. Hen. II.—Grant to Haughmond from Walter de Clifford (II., 1170–1220). "Sciant omnes tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Walterus de Clifford filius Walteri filii Ricardi, filii Puncii, concessi et hac carta mea confirmavi Deo et ecclesie Sancti Johannis Evangeliste de Hagemon et canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus donacionem quam dominus meus Hugo de Sai et soror mea Lucia uxor illius dederunt et concesserunt in molendino de Bechesford et carta sua confirmaverunt. His testibus : Hugone de Sai, Ricardo de Clifford, Gileberto Giffard, Willelmo Carbonello, Achille de Beche et Rogero fratre ejus, Tery de Haia et Ricardo de Haia, Ricardo capellano et alio Ricardo capellano, Thoma capellano, Waltero clerico Hugonis de Sai, Hugone de Kattford." A large green seal is attached, but broken ; a knight on horseback, "Sigill'. Will'. Clifford."

1174–1179. Agreement between abbot Walter of Lilleshall [abbot 1174–1203] and Richard de Charlton. "Hec est conventio inter abbatem Walterum de Lillesh.' ejusque conventum et Ricardum de Cherletun. Ipse Ric. cognoscit et testificatur se tenuisse tenementum quod Cherl.' dicitur per gratiam Willelmi abbatis quam diu ipse abbas Willelmus viveret, et nichil juris in eodem tenemento habuisse aut adhuc habere. Quapropter reddidit totum tenementum Waltero abbati et conventui, et ipse abbas et conventus concesserunt ei tenere tres virgatas predicti tenementi in vita sua, reddendo annuatim ecclesie de Lillesh.' in die S. Michaelis unam petram cere. Quartam vero virgatam retinuit abbas in dominicum suum. Predictus autem Ric. fide et sacramento coram conventu se obstrinxit quod neminem suorum predictam possessionem invadere aut ab ecclesia de Lillesh.' alienare permittet. Quod si ipse Ric. memoratam terram in manu sua tenere noluerit aut nequiverit, nulli tam tenendam aut colendam nisi abbati committere poterit. Si vero vitam suam mutare voluerit, apud domum de Lillesh.' religionis habitum induet, et moriens corpus suum cum terra sepedicta libere et quiete committet. His testibus: Widone vicecomite [*sheriff until* 1179], Marscote, magistro Alano, magistro Rodberto decano, Hugone filio Noel, Simone de Perepont, Petro filio Thoreth et Philippo filio ejus, Rodberto de Scageburie et Widone filio ejus, Ricardo Picot et Nicolao filio Marscot, Rodberto de Sugenhul, Helia Coudrel, Radulfo de Bromhale, Rodberto de Bruge, Rein. clerico vicecomitis, Herberto filio Adam, magistro Ricardo de Curchun, Rodberto de Actun, et Adam de Andreslawa, et Hundredo de Pebenhul, cum multis aliis."

Circa 1200.—Grant from William L'Estrange to Lilleshall Abbey. "Universis sancte matris ecclesie [&c.] Magister Willelmus Extraneus filius Johannis Extranei salutem in vero Salutari. Noverit universitas vestra me pro salute anime mee et omnium antecessorum et successorum meorum concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse Deo et ecclesie Beate Virginis Marie de Lilleshalle et canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus venditionem quam Rogerus Capellanus de Sancta Maria predictis canonicis fecit de quodam mesuagio cum pertinentiis juxta ecclesiam Sancte Juliane in Salopesburia, illo scilicet quod est inter terram que fuit Ernaldi de Coventre et terram Herberti filii Walteri, salvo redditu meo, videlicet sex denarios, quos predicti canonici mihi et successoribus meis annuatim in die Sancti Michaelis pro omni servicio seculari et exactione persolvent. Et ut hec mea concessio rata, stabilis, et inconcussa in perpetuum permaneat, eam presentis scripti munimine et sigilli mei appositione corroboravi. His testibus: Ricardo Pigot, Willelmo filio Fromundi, Petro clerico, Roberto Scot, Joseph clerico, Willelmo fratre ejus, Ricardo le Vilain et Willelmo filio Willelmi tunc prepositis,* Reginaldo de Hibernia, Herberto de Bruge, Philippo filio Jurdani, Petro filio Ricardi, Roberto Plummario." A small fragment of a green seal, bearing the word "Sigillum," remains attached.

Temp. Rich. I.? Grant from Roger de Egbaldesham, son of Roger, to "Hagamon" Abbey of one virgate of his land at Egbaldesham in the parish of Saubure, which is held by Osbern. Witn. Will. de Hethlega, Reginald de Tyrna, Baldwin Wischar, Stephen de Stantun, Henry the clerk of Witheford, Wido de Saubure, Roger de Begessowre, Robert son of Aer, Reiner de Hacton, Michael de Withintun.

Confirmation of this grant by Vivian de Roshele. Witn., Ralph Hose and William his brother, Hamo son of Marescoth, Wido de Saubire, Reginald de Tirne, Rob. le Poer, Henry the clerk, Henry Hose, Ovieth, Rich. de Muclitun, Simon de Jagedune, Philip de Gulidone. Large green seal, a knight on horseback. Insc. broken: ". . . . viani fil . . . ." See Eyton, *Antiq. of Shropshire*, IX., 323.

Temp. Hen. III., early in his reign.—"Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Thomas filius Roberti Corbet vendidi et quietum clamavi, et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi, de me et heredibus meis imperpetuum Johanni seniori filio Johannis Extranei et toto comuni de burgo Salopesberie totam terram cum omnibus edificiis et pertinenciis suis in burgo de Salopesberie que fuit quondam Roberti Bangorensis episcopi, pro xx^{ti} libris argenti quas mihi dederunt, reddendo inde singulis annis ecclesie Beate Marie Salopesberie in festo Pasche debitam firmam pro omni servitio, videlicet xi. denarios et obolum." Witn. Robert Lenfant† and Andrew son of Hubert, provosts of Shrewsbury, Richard le Vilein, Clement son of Peter, Herbert de Atingeham the official of Shrewsbury, John Pooer, Richard Pride, Reiner Ruffus, Thomas son of William the Coroner, Peter le Vilei[n], John Cnotte. Green seal of arms, broken; shield bearing a raven; "Sigill' . . . . Corbet."

Grant from Hugh son of Gollan the Knight of Stowe to God, SS. Mary and Leonard, and the canons and brethren of the order of Semp-[r]ingham "custodientibus infirmas de Claterecote" (Oxon) of a rent of ten shillings which Sir Symon de Croppria (Cropredy) was accustomed to pay him annually. Witn., William, chaplain of Croppria, Richard de Grimescote, Anselm his son, Fulk Basset, Rich. de

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* Apparently the earliest provosts of Shrewsbury on record. *See* Owen and Blakeway's *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, I. 523; Richard le Vilain is there called Richard Rusticus.

† Robert Infans, or le Child. *Ibid.*, 523, 524.

Prestecote, Rich. de Willcote, Will. de Stokes, Rich. Thaillard, Will, Ulger, Thomas Smarth.

1239, Nov., 24 Hen. III.—Fine by which Richard Corbet agrees to do service for one knight's fee to William de Skalebroc for the tenement which Peter son of Oliver holds of the said Richard in Haseleye, and for the tenement which John de Seyvile held of him in Skalebroc in Yorkshire, and also the said Richard gave the said William sixty shillings.

Temp. Hen. III. or Edw. I.—Grant by Henry de Erdintone to Rob. de Stantone and Emma his wife, for the sum of 24 marks, of his mills at Schaweburi. Witn., Sir John de Ercalewe and Sir John fitz Aer, knts., Rob. Corbet of Morton, Reyner lord of Acton, Philip lord of Penynton, Roger of Preston below Brochurst, Will. Cresset of Little Wythiford, John le Wrothe of Morton Toret, Albert son of John of Estleye.

Temp. Hen. III.—Quit-claim by Emma Banestre, after divorce from her husband Adam, to the canons of Haghemon of one virgate of land in Egebaldeham which Rob. Wercoc formerly held. Witn., Sir Rich. Corbet, Richard son of Geoffrey of Egebaldeham, Wido de Hadenhale, Thomas Crasset, Reginald de Wythiford. Oval green seal; a floriated device; "Sigill' Emme uxoris Will'i Banast'."

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant by Robert lord of Espele to Haghemon abbey of the agreement which he made with Thomas Bosse, son of Thomas Bosse, respecting "illa warda" of land in Hopton which Alexander son of Helias had. Witn., Henry de Pechesey, John de Soces, Roger son of Tho. de Hopton, Robert de Winekeshul, John de Cliva.

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant by Reginald de Stanwardin in le Felde to Sir Rich. de Lehtone of leave "ad faciendum probum suum et aprucat[um]" at his will in his wood of Wolvinewode. Witn., Will. de Ondeslawe, Will. de Fennimara, Will. de Eytone, Rich. Knit de Walleford, John de Mere.

1241.—Grant from Jewaff Vachan, son of Jewaff, son of Henry, to the abbot and convent of Strattmarchell (in Montgomeryshire) of all the lands which were sold to them by his father; and also "de terra "extirpacionis proxima acre que vocatur Grofftadam plenariam quanti-"tatem ejusdem acre in longitudine et latitudine prout discreti viri "melius indicaverint mensurandam"; and also all his right in the land called Kenew Elhameston. Witn., Kadugan prior of Strattmarchell, John, Kadugan, monks of the same house; and of secular persons, Eynnius son of Maredud, Jorwhert son of Madauc and Griffin his brother, Eynnius son of Griffud and Heylin his brother.

1249, Oct., 33 Hen. III.—Grant from Richard the abbot and convent of Lilleshull to Robert Corbet of Morton of "quandam placiam in Cherletone ad pratum faciendum subtus castrum suum de Mortone"; with minute conditions, and description of boundaries. Witn., Peter Corbet, Alan Corbet, Rich. de Pectone, Nich. de Fortone, clerk, Geoffrey de Mockleston, clerk, Rob. de Costentin, Will. de Doniton, clerk.

1252, Nov., 37 Hen. III.—Release from the lady Mabel, widow of Sir Walter de Harpecote, to Rich. Pride, burgess of Shrewsbury, of her right in the mill of Harpecote for the term of eight years. Witn., Sir Odo de Hodenet, Rob. Corbet of Morton, Roger de Preston, Rob. de Acton, Rob. Pride, John son of Ivo, Henry Partriche, Will Pochelae, Ivo son of John, Peter son of Clement, Roger son of Reiner.

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant from Roger de Langleberge to Hugh de Croft in marriage dowry with Hysobella his eldest daughter of his land

in Bradefeld which he held of Ralph de Sudintone and John de Credewelle. Witn., Will. fitz Warin, Brian de Brauntone, Gwarin de Grenedene, Rob. de Ely, Walter fitz Peter, Roger fitz Adam.

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant from Robert de Harperchote to Bertram Griffin of rent, &c. in Harpernchote (*sic*). Witn., Will. de Erkalewe, Rich. Corbet, Peter Corbet, Thomas del Lee, Reiner de Actone, Wido de Hadenhale, [and seven others.]

Temp. Hen. III.—Acknowledgment by Osbern Barath of the receipt from William the abbot and the canons of Haghem. of the mill of Bechesford, paying to them annually sixteen shillings and to the Hospitallers of Dunemore half a mark. Witn., John Carbunel, Pagan Charb.', Simon chaplain of Bureford, Geoffrey de Bureford, and Geoffrey his son. Green seal of arms; . . . horse-shoes (?); "Sigillum Osbert . . ."

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant from William the lord of Upton (son of Hugh) to Richard son of Roger Wercock of Egebaldeham and Margery his wife of a virgate of land in that village. Witn., Sir Adam, priest and vicar of Scaubure, Reginald de Withiford, Rich. Wercoke, Rich. de la Hul and Rich. his son, [and three others of that name].

Temp. Hen. III.—Sale by Roger Sprenghose, lord of Longenolre, to William called le Budel of Longenolre, for 44*l.*, of land which Will. Twychelone and Agnes wife of Adam de Bottefeld held of him in Longenolre. Witn., John Honane, Roger Smethecote, John Champeneys, [and others].

Grant from John son of Robert de Esplege, lord of Esplege, to the infirmary of Haughmond abbey of four shillings of annual rent in Hopton. [Eyton, IX. 285. The name of Odo de Hodnet is correctly given in this original deed, and there are four more witnesses.]

Temp. Hen. III.—Exchange of land between John of Little Wythifort and Will. Cresset of Wythifort. Witn., Roger de Preston, Will. Banastre, Ivo de Sulton, Rich. de la Hul of Mukliton, Thomas of the same, Rich. Coc of Egebaldunham, William the clerk of Acton. Seal, a fleur de-lis; "S' Joh'is d' Wycfort."

Grant from Thomas de Hopton, son of Walter, to his son Roger of half a virgate of land in Hopton. Witn., Rob. de Esple [and others].

Grant from Robert son of Adam de Prestone to Richard the Cook of Hopton of half a virgate in Hopton. Witn., Will. Tuder, Rob. de Bekeshulle, Rich. de Lakyn, Philip de Hopton, Henry de Pecchey.

Grant from Stephen de Stantone, son of Stephen de Stantone, to his uncle Robert de Stantone, of land in the vill of Rodene. Witn., Phil. de Penyntone, Rob. de Blektlee, Will. Cresset of Halnton, Reg. de Wythyford, Tho. fitz Alan of Rodene, Tho. de Wythynton. Seal of arms: two hounds courant, "S' Henrici de Helinfor'." (?)

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant from John Stopel de la Biflote and Eva his wife to Robert son of Adam de Preston of a messuage and land in Hopton. Witn., Odo de Hodenet, Roger de Putlesdon, Thomas Corbet of Tassel, knts., Adam de Prestone, Rob. de Stauntone, Will. de Prestone, clerk. Two seals: one armorial, a bend between two stars.

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant from Lucy widow of Elyas Botte to David son of Brun of four acres of land between Portwey and land formerly hers. Witn., Will. de la Punde, Will. Tope, [and others]. Seal: a fleur-de-lis, "S' Luce relicte El' Bote."

Temp. Hen. III.—Release from Will. Cnotte to Sir Giles de Erdinton e of all his right in the wood of Hemmele within the park of the sa id Sir Giles. Witn., Sir Rob. de Halectone, Sir Thomas de la

Huge of Whitchurch, Adam the Vicar, Bertram Griffin, Robert Corbet, Thomas de Pixstoke.

Temp. Hen. III.—Grant from Rob. de Esplege to Haughmond abbey of two shillings of rent in Hopton. [Eyton, IX., 284, with witnesses' names.]

Temp. Hen. III.—Release from Richard Smethe son of Thomas Wedirkok, to Haughmond abbey of all his right in half a virgate, &c. in Hopton. [Ib. IX., 286, where for *Smere* read *Smethe*, and add to the witnesses' names, Robert de Hefilchawe and Philip Fremon.]

The undated deeds recited above appear to belong to the reign of Hen. III. Of that of Edw. I. there are about 42, and of Edw. II., 19. From these I select the following for notice :—

Grant from Ralph lord of Sonford to Richard son of Agnes de Aldelym of half a virgate in Aldelege. Witn., Master Rich. de Pyvele, Sir Hen. de Schauntone, [and others].

Grant from Sir Henry lord of Erdynton of a messuage and 16 acres of land for support of a chaplain in the church of Chawburi. [Eyton, VIII., 144, where to the witnesses add, Adam vicar of Chawburi, and Sir Reyner de Acton, knt.] Seal of arms.

Sale by John lord of Espelege to William Tuder of his land in Hopton, for 20*l.* "in mea necessitate." Witn., Sir Rob. Corbet of Morton, Sir Thomas Corbet of Tassalee, Sir John fitz Aer, Sir Rich. de Lefhton, Rich. Hord, Will. Hord, and others. The deed is mentioned in Eyton, IX. 285 as not being preserved.

1274.—Lease from Robert Corbet of Morton to Will. Silion "de Veteri Campo" of half a virgate in Aldele, for the term of 23 years beginning "ad Assenc. Domini proximo coronacionis reg. reg. E. fil. Henr. reg." (*sic*). Witn., Rob. de Say of Mortun, Tho. de Stuche, Hugh fitz James, Henry son of Will. de Mortun, Rich. de Aldele. Oval white seal, a fleur-de-lis; "Sigill' Will'i Silion."

1286.—Deed of sale by Roger Pride, burgess of Shrewsbury, to Sir Rob. de Corbet and Matilda his wife, for the sum of 200*l.* of the vill of Besseford. Witn., Sir Walter de Hopton, Sir John fitz Aer, Sir Will. de Tituelege, Sir John de Lee, Sir Tho. Boterel, Sir Roger de Acton, Sir Peter de Eyton, &c. Notice by Pride to his tenants of the sale, with seal of a shield bearing the letter R between three fleurs-de-lis; "Sigill' Rogeri Prude." Grant by him to the same of land in Schaweburi.

Grant from John L'Estrange ("Extraneus"), lord of Ercalwe, and Matilda his wife, to Sir Philip de Say, rector of Hodenet, of one virgate in Harpecote, which he had from Sir Will. le Botiler of Wemme. Witn., Sir Fulk L'Estrange, Sir Will. le Botiler, Sir Rich. de Harleye, Sir Rich. de Pouelesdun, knts., Tho. Corbet, Roger Corbet, Rich. Hord, Ivo de Sulton, Will. de Preston.

1288, 2 June.—Agreement between the abbot and convent of Haghemon as rectors of Sawebure and Sir Reyner, lord of Acton Reyner, by which the latter acknowledges the chapel of Acton to be dependent upon the mother church of Saweburi, and that the tithes and one virgate of land belong to that church; and in return he is to have the services of a chaplain celebrating in the chapel at Acton on the Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday in each week; to which during his life a fourth day is to be added. Seal of arms; three roundlets: "S. Reineri de Actun."

1297, 15 July.—Release from Sibilla de Schauintone, formerly the wife of master John de Espeleie, to the canons of Haghemon of 16*d.* of yearly rent paid to her as dowry from half a virgate in Hopton bought

by them from her husband. Witn., Will. Tuder, Rich. Smethen, Will. Hord, [and others].

1298, 7 Feb.—Grant from William son of Baldewyn de Montegomere to Richard Hord and Eva his wife of a messuage, bakehouse, and land in Montegomere. Witn., Nicholas Bruseboy, bailiff of Montegomere, [and six others].

1309, 14 Oct., 3 Edw. II.—Grant from John Lestraunge of Erkalewe to Sir Thomas Corbet and Robert his son of the manors of Morton Toret, Hemme Hynton, &c.

1311, 25 Sept., 5 Edw. II.—Grant from Sir Roger Corbet, knt., to Roger Pichard, clerk, of his capital messuage (excepting a part held by Tho. Gregori) with 60 acres of the waste, and his part of the moor called Rodmor, in Hatton super Hynehet.

1312 17 May, 5 Edw. II.—Grant from William Tudur to his son Thomas, and Alice daughter of Sir John Giffard of Chelintone, of all his land in Hopton, with the meadow of Elimorthyn called Quabbe medue, and another near Stoke upon Tyrne called Othelas medue, &c.

Grant from Thomas Tudur of Hopton to the abbey of Haghmon of all his land in Hopton and Espeley, as contained in the charter of master John, formerly lord of Espeley, to William Tuder his grandfather. Witn., Sir William le Boteler, lord of Wemme, Sir Rob. Corbet, Sir Laurence de Lodelowe, and Sir John his son, knights, John de Leghtone, Philip de Peynton, Walter Cresset. This deed is noticed in Eyton, IX. 287, from a copy in the Cartulary of Haughmond, and is dated by him "about the year 1350, as I suppose"; but the handwriting of this, the original, appears to be considerably earlier.

A small parcel of deeds in these reigns relates to the town of Northampton. They are as follows:—

i. 1293, 19 Apr., 21 Edw. I.—Grant from William, son of William de St. Alban, parchment-maker, of Northampton, to Philip le Rous, burgess of Northampton, of sixpence of annual rent from his house in St. Sepulchre's street. Witn., William Catour, Thomas fitz Ralph, Will. Grilli.

ii. Grant from Robert son of John de Byfeld of Northampton to Philip le Rous, burgess of Northampton, of two shillings and four pence of rent from a forge in Abyndonestrete. Witn., Robert fitz Henry, mayor, Will. Mount and John Gervays, bailiffs (and others).

iii. Grant from Alice Sefoul, widow of Michael de London, and Robert her son, to Philip le Roys and Lecia his wife, of one penny of annual rent from the house of Stephen, the corner house in Butchers' street. Witn., Robert fitz Henry, mayor, Hugh de Stanford and John de Campedene, bailiffs, (and others). Two seals: i. a bird standing, "S' Alicie Sefoule"; ii. a star, "S' Rob'ti f' Micaelis."

iv. 1301, 3 Oct., 29 Edw. I.—Lease from Philip le Rous and Lecia his wife to Ralph de Dingle and Alice his wife, for their lives, of two shops in Strauschepinge. Witn., Pentecost de Kersalton, mayor, John de Staundford, and Adam de Waltham, bailiffs (and others).

v. 1302, 24 Aug., 30 Edw. I.—Grant from Ralph Monce to Philip le Rous and Lecia his wife of 27 pence of annual rent from a house formerly Rob. de Keylmers beyond the south gate of Northampton. Witn., Pentecost de Kershalton, mayor, John de Stanford and Adam de Waltham, bailiff (and others). Small seal.

vi. Lease from Margaret daughter of Philip le Rous to William de Ahscheby and Juliana his wife, for their lives, of two shops in the Drapery. Witn., W. Pentecost de Kersalton, mayor, William le Sotele and William Baron, bailiffs, &c.

vii. 1316, 4 Apr., 9 Edw. II.—Grant from John Burnel and Matilda his wife, daughter of John le Mynsmyth, to William le Rous, son of Sir Philip le Rous, knt., of a messuage in le Berewardstrete. Witn., Henry le Garlecmongere, mayor, Henry de Westone and Barthol. de Reyni, bailiffs, &c.

viii. 1316, 18 Apr., 9 Edw. II.—Grant from Firmyn le Rous to Roger Mahew of Hargrave and Margaret his wife, of his tenement in the Drapery. Witn., Henry le Garlekmongere, mayor, Henry le Deystere and Barthol. Reyner, bailiffs, &c.

ix. 1326, 28 Feb., 19 Edw. II.—Release from William son of Will. le Rous to Firmyn le Rous of all his right in the lands, &c. which the latter had by the gift of Sir Philip le Rous and Lecia his wife in Northampton, Wodeford near Hinton, and Fardingston. Witn., Walter de Tekne, mayor, Adam de Cotesbrok and John de Hochecote, bailiffs, &c. Seal, a fleur-de-lis; "Si' Will' le Rous."

A few other deeds relating to Northampton are found under later dates. One in 1355 is witnessed by John de Sibford, mayor, and John Dalyngton and Thomas Horpol, bailiffs; and in 1382 there is a good impression of the town seal. There are also occasional documents relating to lands at Linslade, Bucks.

An exemplification by the bailiffs of Shrewsbury of a confirmation of three short charters granted by Henry III. to the town is dated 5 July, 11 Edw., but the word "undime" is substituted for some words erased, and there is some confusion in the dates. The charters are dated respectively 20 March *an.* 11 (1227), 10 Aug. *an.* 40 (1256), and 22 Sept. *an.* 42 (1258 or rather *an.* 41, 1257), and the confirmation by Edward, which describes them as being granted by his grandfather ("avus"), must therefore belong to Edw. II.; but its date is given as being 2 Oct. *an.* 21, while the reign of Edw. II. ended on 20 Jan. *an.* 20. There is therefore some mistake made by the scribe. The copy is given by the bailiffs to "Nicol le fiz Richard Crouwe, burgeys de Salop" in order that he may be "conu et tesmoine pur notre comburgois de totes partz la ou il vendra," and has the town seal attached, but partly broken (the lion passant, "Sigillum . . . orum Salopesberie").

For the reign of Edw. III. there are 94 deeds. They are almost entirely deeds of title relating to various estates, but amongst them is a license to Haughmond Abbey (misspelled "Hamuon") to have the following grants in mortmain, viz., the moiety of Wynterton from Rob. de Clifford, a virgate in Hopton from John le Walshe of Shrewsbury, and four shillings of rent in Haston from Rob. de Preston; of a total value of 39*s.* 2*d.*, out of 10*l.* which they have leave to acquire; dated at Kenyngton, 20 Feb. *an.* 14, 1340. In 1334 and 1340 land is exchanged by Henry the abbot and the convent of Lilleshull, but of the abbey seal only a small fragment remains. In 1342 the singular female name of *Gilhana* occurs. Agnes, daughter of William Payne of Linslade, Bucks, is manumitted by Symon le Rous of Pelyng, "ab omni jugo et onere servitutis" in 1350; and another instance of manumission is found in 1406, when one Sibil Gregory is freed by Sir Robert Corbet of Hadley. Provision is made by Richard de la Clyve in 1356 for the saying of mass by his brother Nicholas before the altar of the Holy Cross in the church of St. Mary Shrewsbury, for the souls of their father, Thomas de la Clyve, their mother and brothers and sisters. In 1364 there is a bond in 200*l.*, dated at Buckingham, from Geoffrey de Lucy, Robert Botevilleyn, and Thomas Darderne, to Sir John Bardolph of Mapledurham, Sir John de Bracebrugge, and Sir Giles Darderne, for payment of 220 marks by half-yearly payments of 22

marks "a Oxenford en la meson de seynt John," for the debts of Sir William Botevilleyn, deceased, of which a schedule is attached. Amongst them is one of 10*l.* "a frere Thomas Burele, prior del Hospital de Irland." The seal of arms of John de Bracebrigge remains.

In the reigns of Rich. II.—Henry V. there are 39 documents. A curious example of a forgery is found in one well-written deed, ostensibly dated 12 Aug. 19 Rich. II., which professes to be a grant by Robert de Kendale, son and heir of Robert Kendale, knt. (a name not previously met with), to his daughter Alana, of the manor of Soulton, in the hundred of Bradford, and to which an armorial seal is attached (of which the bearing is not clear), "S' Robertus (*sic*) de Kendel." This has the following endorsement :—"Memorandum quod ista carta confessa fuit fore fabricata per Thomam Burdon coram justic. dom. regis de banco, prout patet termino Sancte Trinitatis anno r.r. E. iiij^{ti} post conq. Angl. nono, ro. ccccxxxiiij." In 1421 Alice Webbe of Harlascote grants to Roger Yve, clerk, Master of the new college of St. Mary Magd. near Shrewsbury [*i.e.*, the collegiate church of Battle], and to his successors as masters of the said college, four butts of arable land called Madynnes buttes in Chromgrenes in the Wodefeld of Harlascote.

Of later documents the following are all that appear to require notice :—

1524, 12 June, 16 Hen. VII.—A lease from Sir John Tuchett, lord Audelay, to Robert Richardson, gent., of the township of Keaston, for 99 years, at an annual rent of 4*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, has a good impression of the grantor's armorial seal, with the inscription, "Sigillum Johannis domini de *Andeley*," a mis-spelling of the title which is also distinctly given in the document itself, and in the grantor's signature which is subscribed.

1530, 1535.—Three leases of small holdings from Haughmond abbey are all unfortunately without the abbey seal.

1533, 8 Nov., 25 Hen. VIII.—Lease, in English, from Robert Dichar and William Peplow, wardens of the parish church of Scabery [Shawbury], and the whole parishioners of the same, to dame Elizabeth Corbet, of Paynton, widow, of "oone mese place sett and lying within Schabery callid the hall," for 61 years, at an annual rent of ciiij^{s}, paying also a heriot ["an herald"] of vi^{s} viij^{d} "at anny suche tyme as dethe schall fortune."

1534, 2 Jan., 26 Hen. VIII.—Lease from William Prowde, prior of the monastery of St. Leonard at Wombridge, and the convent, to John Aydney, of a messuage at Acton Hynehethe, for 61 years, at an annual rent of ten shillings. The priory seal represents the B. Virgin and Child under a canopy; inscription partly broken, "S . . . d' Wembrugge."

1546, 12 Feb., 37 Hen. VIII.—Grant by the Crown, under the Great Seal, to Andrew Corbet, esq., of Morton, of the manor of Redcastell, for the sum of 553*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

1557, 16 March, 3 and 4 Phil. and Mar.—Reversionary lease from Richard Walker, prebendary of Preece, to Sir Andrew Corbett, of his prebend and rectory of Preece, for 70 years at an annual rent of 20*l.*

1595, 20 May.—The original license granted by the archbishop of Canterbury to the parish of Broseley (which is described as having been always, within the memory of man, a parish of itself), at the petition of James Clifford, esq., the patron, John Vyley, rector, and the parishioners, to have the right of burial in the churchyard, bodies having been hitherto carried for burial to Much Wenlock, about three miles off.

This license is confirmed by letters patent from the Queen, dated 24 May, which are attached, and which have the Great Seal.

1599.—Certified extracts from the episcopal registers of Coventry and Lichfield of the presentations to the vicarage of Morton Corbett from 1313 to 1372. There are also two lists on paper which begin at 1300, one of which gives also the presentations to Cardeston 1304–1412, from the Hereford registers.

162$\frac{3}{4}$.—Letter "to my lovinge servant Samuel Woodd at Hopley" from "your assured lovinge master," Sir Andrew Corbet, written from London, where he was attending Parliament, at "St. Clement's Churchyard in the East, March 2." After directions about the letting of farms, the writer mentions the hearing in Parliament the Prince's and the duke of Buckingham's narrative respecting the treaty for the Spanish match. But "upon Friday morninge we had a messwage from the Lordes, delivered by Sir Randulfe Crewe, the effecte whereof was this, that the Spanish ambasador the day before had binne with the Kinge at Hampton Court, and their tould his Majestie that the duke of Buckingham in his relation at Whithall conserninge the treaty had doone his master the Kinge of Spaine that dishonour as noethinge could expiate the same but his heed; and withall he tould us the Lords had allready cleared the duke, and desired to know what our oppinion was, and whether wee would joyne with them in the clearinge of him. After halfe an howre spent, in which were many pritty passwages, and good speeches to this poynt, we returned this answer, that we did not only cleere the duke from this imputation that was laid upon him, but allsoe did give him thankes, and thought him worthy of highe commendation for his carriadge in this treaty."

1623.—Inventory and valuation of the goods and chattels of Sir Andrew Corbet, deceased, taken 14 May. On a parchment roll. (Printed in *Shropshire Notes and Queries*, 1894, III., 60–67.)

1637.—Similar inventory of the goods of Sir Vincent Corbet, deceased, taken 20 Aug. On a parchment roll.

1649–1664.—Folio account-book of the overseers of the poor for the parish of Shawbury.

1646-1650.—Order of the committee for compounding with delinquents, 3 Dec. 1646, that a fine of 2,822*l.* be set upon Sir Vincent Corbet, but that if he settle 80*l.* per an. for the maintenance of the ministry in the church of Linslade, Bucks, that the fine be reduced to 2,022*l.* The full fine was paid, but then on 3 May 1650, 800*l.* are returned by William lord Munson and George Fleetwood, and Sir V. Corbet conveys to them the impropriate tithes of Linslade to pay out of them 80*l.* annually to the minister appointed by lawful authority to officiate there and his successors for ever, as of the free gift of Parliament.

1696, 18 May.—Letter to Richard Corbet, esq., at Shawbury Park from W[illiam Lloyd] bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, "concerning the pile of building which you propose to erect, and to join it to the church," of Morton Corbet, "as a burying place for your family. You are pleased to say, and therefore I doubt not, it will be an ornament to the church. I hope you will order it so, that this addition may bring no manner of prejudice or inconvenience to the church. And on that condition I not only consent to your building but thank you for it." He gave license to the vicar of Staunton to serve the chapelry of Weston as well, worth 16*l.* a year, on account of his poverty, and because there were but 14 families in his parish, provided he heard no complaint of him; but now thinks he ought to retract it, "since I find his life and conversation does not answer his function. Onely

I hope it may be better since the reprimand that I sent him. If he has not mended upon that, I desire you would be pleesd to let me know it, and I shall forbid him Weston: more I cannot do unless I had articles against him."

1698, 1 Dec.—The same to the same, "Capt. Rich. Corbet," claiming payment of a pension and procuration due to the bishop of Lichfield from the rectory of Stanton, payment of which has been refused, but which was made by the abbot and convent of Heighmond before the Dissolution. He is bound to preserve the rights of the see, and therefore is now, after so many years of forbearance, about to put a bill into the Exchequer for compelling those to pay such dues who have hitherto unjustly detained them.

1724, 3 March, Whaddon Hall.—Letter from Browne Willis to Andrew Corbet, esq., M.P., at Westminster, giving, in reply to enquiry, notes, from his collections, respecting the members of Parliament for Shropshire.

In 1768-70 there is correspondence between Mr. Rowland Hill of Hawkstone and Mr. Andrew Corbet, upon the attempt of the former as a magistrate to put down races on Shrewsbury Heath, and the observance of a village wake, which were alleged to cause scenes of extreme disorder, profanity, and riot; an attempt resented by Mr. Corbet in the strongest terms as unwarrantable interference with his tenants. The latter retorts upon Mr. Hill (the well-known supporter of Whitefield) that if he finds any of his own tenants deserting their parish church and attending conventicles, they will be treated as breakers of decency and good order.

A MS. of Samuel Garbett's History of Wem and the neighbouring district exists in a quarto volume, which appears to be a copy later than the date of the compilation between 1750–60. The book was printed in 1818.

Among a few court-rolls is a book of the courts of the Princess Elizabeth and the duke of Somerset, for Banbury, Cropredy, and Wardington, in Oxfordshire, in the time of Edward VI. On a fly-leaf in the second of two books of court-rolls of Morton Corbett and Besford in 1588–1615, are these lines, written probably by a steward of the court:—

"To the memory of the ladye Francis Corbett, late wief of Sir Vincent Corbet.

"Thither she's gon whither she did addresse
Herself, unto the place of happynes.
Eache action duly fitted in her lief,
Zeale of a Christian, kindness of a wief,
A mother's care, an heart compassionate
To them that languish'd in distressed state.
Eache vertue that might be requir'd to grace
Her sex, her mynde, her birth, her matche, her place,
Serv'd as a step to lifte her up on high
Out of this world to blest eternitie,
Where she, good sowle, no want of ioy can fynd,
Though we poore mortalls that are left behinde
Want her, and (if our losse we value well)
Want, and are like to want, her parallel.

Andreas Woode, complorans, posuit."

A few of the earlier deeds bear endorsements by Mr. G[eorge] M[orris], who examined them in 1824.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF P. EDWARD TILLARD, ESQ., OF THE HOLME, GODMANCHESTER.

The diary here reported on was kept by William Tillard (son of Abraham Tillard, a London merchant, by Mary, sister of James Bateman, Lord Mayor of London) who was born 1675, and went out to Masulipatam in 1699 as a servant of the New East India Company. Surviving all his fellow-officers, he became President there (*see* 13th Report, Appendix III., p. 14), but returned to England in 1705.

The diary illustrates the tension between the old and new companies, and is useful for its accurate record of facts and dates.

The writer set sail from Deal Jan. 15, 1699 [N. S.] in the *London*, George Mathews captain, "being y^e^ first ship sent out in y^e^ new East India Co. service." Reaching Funchal February 4^th^, the ship "took in a few pipes of wine," and sailed for the Cape, which was sighted April 8^th^. Mauritius was sighted May 15^th^, and on the 17^th^ the ship anchored in Carpenter's Bay.

"As for y^e^ Isl^d^ Mauritius, it is pleasant & verry woody & rocky. It was first found out by the Portugeez A^o^ 1600, who lived on it some short time and deserted it. Afterwards y^e^ Dutch took possession of it 1618, who gave it the name of Mauritius, from Maurice, Pr. of Orange. They kept it for 6 y^rs^, and y^n^ left it, but y^e^ Dutch East India Co., thinking it might be of use to their ships in their way to India, they sent out 2 ships to take possession of y^e^ Island, which was 12 y^rs^ after their first desertion.

"It is lookt upon by most people as verry healthfull & wants no refreshm^ts^ for seamen after a long voyedg. It is still inhabited by y^e^ Dutch, who are in all, with slaves, ab^t^ 400 in number. Any one may be made free of y^e^ Island, but they must first serve y^e^ Comp^y^ 3 y^rs^, & y^n^ y^e^ Gov^er^ gives y^m^ a piece of ground to live upon, anywhere upon y^e^ Island, as y^e^ new made freeman shall like best, when he builds himself a house and makes a plantation of tobacco, & so lives upon what he can gitt in y^e^ woods, as Deer, Goats, &ca., till they can gitt a little money, & then they buy cocks & hens, cows and slaves, &ca., when they live a little better. The freemen are not suffered to go off of (*sic*) y^e^ Island w^n^ they please, but y^e^ unmarried are forct to stay 6 y^rs^ upon y^e^ Island after they are made free, and if they marry they are obliged to stay 15 y^rs^, the freemens children are free without serving y^e^ Comp^y^ 3 years. They deal with all nations in y^e^ same manner, not favouring their own countrymen more y^n^ other people, but at present they are all Dutchmen, except^g^ one, who is an Englishman, and lives by black river.

"The present Gov^ers^ name is P. Diodati, who has 5^d^ per mo. salary. The Dep. Gov^ers^ name is Van Momberen, who has 4^d^ per mo. The Gov^er^ sent his Dep. to us for to suply us w^th^ what we wanted. 'Tis beleeved y^t^ y^e^ Govern^r^ designs to go of y^e^ Isl^d^ by y^e^ first ship, w^ch^ was daily expected, w^n^ the Dep. Van Momberen is to succeed him.

"The Isl^d^ is well stored with deer, goats & cows, as also cocks and hens. We gave 3 Doll. for a deer, ½ a Doll. a goat, and 8 Doll. for a

cow, wch is ye settled price, they being sold by ye Gover, and not by ye freemen, who cannot sell any of these 3 things. Cocks and hens are sold by ye freemen, 4 for a Doll.; there is also wild hogs, but yt alwaies belongs to ye huntsman, who is commonly one of their slaves, he disposes of it as he pleases. They have potatoes enough, wch suply ye place of bread, for there is no corn can grow upon ye Isld by reason of ye multitude of rats, wch eat it up before 'tis half grown to perfection; but at ye Factory (wch lyes on ye S.E. side of ye Isld) they eat bread, made of corn brought there by ye ships from ye Cape. There is also upon ye Isld a great many oranges, limes, and lemons, wch ye freemen sold us 100 a Doll., but not so good as those ye Gover sent ye Capn; and ye Dep. told us that at ye Factory they have the best of every thing upon ye Isld, as also more plenty, and many things grow there wch they have not in any other part of ye Isld, especially all sorts of sallat & other green trade, for we could gitt nothing green from ye freemen but pursely & another sweet cented herb, with wch we made a sallatt, adding thereto some shallat. There is abundance of fish about ye Island, for one man, wth an angle, in an hour's time shall catch as much fish as 6 men can eat.

"There is verry good fresh water about half-a-mile up ye river from Carpenters bay w[h]ere we lay with our ship, so yt we made 3 turns with fresh water every day, & yt with ease. There is a tomb built at ye entrance of ye river, a little way from ye shore, where lyes one Welden, who died on this Isld abt 2 yrs since, returning home in ye Benja from Bombay. Here are also sharks and manatees about this Isld but we took no notice of either, to strike them. Here is also a great many sea turtle, but we were too soon in ye year to find any of them. Here is abundance of ebony wood, wch we saw going up to ye freemens houses, wch lay 3 mile frm Carpenters bay. As for birds, we did not see many, ye most plentifull are hawks and turtle-doves wch will suffer you to come verry nigh them before they fly away, the grey hawk is verry good food. Here is also a very large batt, at least a yard distance frm ye tip of one wing to ye tip of ye other, there (*sic*) body as large [as] a midle sized monkey, & there (*sic*) head just like ym, the inhabitants eat ym, & say they are very good food, I see one of them cut open on the breast, & 'twas nothing butt fatt. They hang upon ye trees, so long till one may take hold of him, without offering to fly away. The cow hath also a great bunch of fatt stick'd up between her two shoulders.

"Horses they have, but are all wild, & wn ye inhabitants bring ym in to tame them, they soon dye, but they do not make many tryals, because they have no place upon ye Isld to ride about, it being nothing but woods & rocks. There is no way to take ye deer alive, unless there is a boat sent out to watch wn ye deer betakes him to ye water, for they will alwaies gitt to ye water if they can, to save ymselves frm ye dogs, wn they often save their lives, unless a shark meets wth ym wn they are devoured, but otherwise they escape, they havg no sort of boat on this Isld to go after ye Deer, onely one wch ye Gover has for his use. The inhabitants take dollars, ye light ones are as good to ym as ye heavier. An English crown goes but for a dollar, but an English shillg they esteem as a shillg, & agree wth ym as cheap as you can. There is abundance of land turtle on Quine Island."

Weighing anchor on May 28 the ship sailed for the Coromandel coast. "No such Isld as St. Appolonio" could be seen after leaving Mauritius, and it was concluded that "ye Isld Maskareen is laid down twice in ye maps." The shoals of Cardoin de Graies were sighted on June 1, and the ship anchored before Porto Novo, July 6. Messrs [Robert],

Hedges,* Graham, Watts, and Lee went ashore with the writer and visited the Dutch factory "but saw no body belongs to ye English excepts an officer wch was come there frm Fort St. David. Having visited the Governor and made him a present, they returned aboard, and sailed the same night for Fort St. George, where they anchored on the morning of the 8th. The same party went ashore and were "civilly receiv'd by Gover [Thomas] Pitts† (*sic*). The writer "went to see Mr. Hatsell‡, late Gover of St. David, therefore am unacquainted with the discourse [that] past betwixt our gentlemen and them of the Fort. We were told to go aboard by ye Gover after dinner, as I was inform'd, wch we complyed with after a little discourse.

"Sunday ye 9th we sett sail from Fort St. George & came to an anchor before Metchlepatan [Masulipatam] on Wensday ye 12th July betwn 11 & 12 in ye morng for wch God be praised, havg brought us to our desir'd port in health. In ye afternoon, Mr. Hedges, Mr. Graham & myself went on shore & hired a house . . . . . We went to visit ye More [Moor] & Gentue Govers. They promist us we should land our goods, but we must pay custom. We went to ye Gentu Gover again (ye More Gover answerg us neither good nor bad as to customs, for we promist to come & see him again & bring a present wth us) ye Gentu Gover was a little more compiyant ye next time, he promisg us we should lett ym be chopt (*sic*) & afterwards they would come to our house & look upon one or two beailes [bales], & if they agreed wth what we said, to suffer all ye rest to be unchopt (*sic*). We unloaded all ye goods out of ye *London*, according to those conditions.

"Tuesday night ye 1st of Augt, came to an anchor ship *De Grave*, Capn Wm Young, & next day Mr. Hedges, & Mr. Graham went aboard her.

On the evening of the 3rd "Consull Pitt & Mr. Knightly came on shore, ye More Gover sendg ye Catwall to ye water side to welcome him ashore. Ye Dutch chief sent his Dubash ye same evening to ye house to welcome him ashore, as also did Mr. Lovell ye old Compa servt.

"Ye 4th Hagee Mamud Seid sent his servt with a prest, as also to welcome ye Consull on shore.

Ye 8th ye King & flag was hoisted & his commisn to ye Consull [John Pitt§] read in publick to all ye English on shore. Mr. Lovell & ye rest belonging to ye old Factory was sent ye day before to come & hear ye commissn read, but they came not. 'Tis true they sent a letter to ye consull by ye Dubash ye night before, but he refused to receive it, then they sent it by an English young man, but ye Consull thought fitt not to receive it from him neither, & told him yt he would hear no excuse, but did expect they should comply with his orders. In ye afternoon ye Consull, Mr. Hedges, Mr. Graham, Mr. Knightly, Mr. Lee a passenger, Padre Pitt, & ye two Capns went to dinner with Hagee Mamud Seid. Sunday ye 6th Aug. ye Moor Gover came to make us a visitt as did also ye Dutch Chief Mr Weederlandt.

"Friday, ye 11th Aug. Mr. Graham & Mr. Wats went aboard ye *London* carryg ye ship's dispatches with them. Accordingly ye ship sailed away about noon for Bengall.

Friday ye 18th Aug. in ye evening Capn Young had his saylg orders when he went aboard, and accordingly set saile for Bengall, but it so fell out yt he left his Yaul wth 5 of his men behind him. There was

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* Nephew to Sir William Hedges. *See* "Diary of William Hedges" Ed. Yule, II. pp. cxcvii–cxcix.

† *See* 13th Report, App. III., p, 2.

‡ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

§ *See* letter from Robert Pitt, *Ibid.*, p. 3.

likewaise 2 of his men (w^ch he s^d were Dutch) run away & not to be found.

"Y^e 19^th agreed for & ye 22^nd went into ano^r house. . . the Consull y^e Padre & ye secretary stay^g in y^e former. This house is let us for 15^pag per mo. to stay 6 mo^s certain y^e landl^d to repair y^e house. Y^e former house is 6 pag. per mo. & 2 mo^s certain.

Y^e 27^th we had news of Vincatadre his arrivall here fr^m Maderas. Y^e consull ordered him to stop 3 or 4 miles out of town, w^ch was done, & Mr. Browne . . . . . was sent to fetch him from thence to our Factory.

Y^e 28^th we had a consultation, where it was agreed he should be entertained & made our chief Dubash and allowed 150 Pag. per An. to be paid monthly, according to y^e custom at Fort St. George; he is also to have a gratuity for his expences upon y^e road. He had then presented him 3 y^ds crims^n cloth, also some glass ware.

This day also we writt to S^r Edw^d Littleton & y^e Councill at Bengall per ship Benj^a, Cap^n Brown, who arrived here Saterday [26^th] evening before, & sett saile again this day. We writt also to afores^d Gentle^n by y^e *London* & by y^e *Degrave*, w^ch [I] forgott to mention in their proper places—likewise y^t y^e 9^th Aug. at night there was a messenger sent away to y^e Nabab w^th a letter from y^e consull. Y^e contents was to desire liberty to trade in his country w^th out molestation, & to land & load goods without trouble fr^m y^e custom officers & y^e 21^st Aug. y^e Madepallam* merch^t return'd home, having been here 4 or 5 days. We told (*sic*) home the same even^g what goods we wanted & he told us how many pieces of each sort he could help us too, to send away by y^e first ships, also y^t he would send us samples & prices of y^e goods.

"Y^e 30^th Aug. 2 Peons was sent away to Visagatapam, one with the King's commiss^n to y^t consull directed to y^e chief of y^e old Comp^a in y^e place, y^e other to go fr^m thence direct to y^e Nabab's court with a letter writt by y^e consull to our Vakeel there to order to send one to give an acc^t of his arrivall & reception in y^t place.

Ye 5^th Sept we held. a consultation, w^n it was concluded upon to send 2 Peons to Armagan (2 days journey on this side Fort St. George) w^th a 1000 Pag, w^ch was accordingly done y^e next day, & 2 Peons w^th letters to y^e Gov^er of s^d place & 2 merch^ts of d^to place, to order y^m to provide goods, & send us patterns & y^e prices for our governm^t. They had withem [with them] 4 y^ds crims^n cloth for y^e King's rent gatherer there, as also a sword blade for d^to, likewise 3 y^ds crims^n & a sword blade for y^e gov^er Armagan, & to y^e merch^ts 2 y^ds crimson to each man, also 2 y^ds green to Narso Redwood merch.

. . . . . .

7^th d^to betw^n 2 & 3 in y^e morn^g Mr. Mich^l Wats, one of our councill, dyed, after hav^g layn sick of a flux ab^t 3 weeks. He was carryed to y^e English bury^g place betw^n 2 & 3 in y^e afternoon y^e same day.

[Saterday ye iv^th 7ber, there was 2 Peuns sent to Suratt w^th letters]†

Monday 12^th d^to betw^n 2 & 3 in y^e afternoon, Mr. Val. Knightly dyed, he lying sick of a feavor about a week. He was buryed y^e next morning in y^e English burying place & layn by Mr. Wats aforesaid.

"20 d^to arriv'd here Comadore Warren in ye *Harwich* w^th 3 other men of war, with his Excellency S^r W^m Norris, Ambas^r from y^e King of Engl^d to y^e great Mogul. In y^e evening y^e consull Mr. Graham went aboard to wait upon his Excell^cy w^n they were invited to dinner

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* Madapallam the weaving town, where the goods were made.

† Entered on a later fo.

ye Friday after, & ye time being come they went accordingly. Next day being Saterday I went aboard to wait upon his Excellency.

[Ye 24th 7ber one Penn was sent with letters to Fort St. George, among wch were my letters for England enclos'd to Wm. Hatsell, Esq.*

Ye 25th My Lord came ashore abto 10 in ye morng, his retinue being ashore before to receive him. He made a publick entry, he was met by ye Consull & ye rest of ye Factory upon ye bridge, also by Mr Lovell & ye other gentlemen of ye old Compa Factory, ye Moor Govr mett his Excelcy in ye Banksel wth his retinue, & from thence his Lordship went to his lodgings, ye Nawab's house, wth his retinue, as follows: first, went betwn 40 & 50 Peons, then followed ye horeboys & a compa [of] soldiers, yn ye trumpets, after yt my Lords pages, yn Mr. Browne in place of my Lords steward, his own being sick, & ye rest of my Lords assistants, as ye under-secretary, ye treasurer, ye 3 commisrs for Prizes; yn went Comodore Warren & 2 other comdrs of each side, [that is] to say, Capn Littleton on his right & Capn White on his left side, ye other Capn being not well & so not ashore, then came his Excellcy my Lord Ambasr Wm Norris, after him ye Consull Jno. Pitt, Esq., [the] secretary of ye Embassy, Mr. Norris, my Lords bror & then our Secd Mr Jno. Graham & Mr. Thos. Lovell, chief of ye old Compa Servts in this place after yn myself with —— Pitt ye parson of our Factory, after us Mr. Jno. Holden our Secretary & Mr. Nodham ye old Compa Secd, also ye 3rd of sd Factory, yn went Mr. Hale & ye writers every-one in their sevll stations, & after yn some others from aboard ye ships *Harwich*, Capn Warren Comadre, *Angelsea*, Capn —— Littleton, *Hastings*, Capn Richd White, & *Lizard*, Capn —— Romsey.

"Ye 23rd 7ber ye consull Jno. Pitt, Esq. & Mr. Jno. Graham went frm hence to Madapolm to treat with the merchants of that place.

"Ye 30th ye 4 men [of] warr sail'd out of this road & gott out of sight, & that morng att 2 o'clock Mr. Blacket, my Lord's steward, dyed of a flux & was buryed in ye afternoon.

1st 8ber at 12 o'clock at night dyed Mr. Cok, Phician to ye Embassy. He was buryed Monday in ye afternoon.

Ye 3 8ber arriv'd at Govdre one servant frm ye Mogull to raise a tax upon ye Gentues, bringg wth him a piece of beef (yt whoso'er eat of ye beef should be freed frm ye tax; but ye Governor ye other officer of this place would not suffer him to raise it till he had an order frm ye Nawab, ye Vice Roy of Golconda.

Ye 7th a messenger arriv'd here frm ye Nawab, who brought news of ye Mogull's sendg a coat to ye sd Nawab, upon wch there was great rejoycing in this place, it being a mark of favour shown to ye Navab by ye great Mogull. We sent ½ maund of powder towds their rejoycing, but ye Dutch sent 2 maund.

Ye 13th ye consull & Mr. Graham return'd from Madapollam. Next day I see ye Govr of Madapm's cowl to us, also an agreement wch they made wth ye merchts there for goods.

Ye 24th I see a letter from ye Govr of Armagen. It gave us incoureagement to trade in ye country. At ye same time I read a translation of ye Vacca Novis's letter to Court concerng my Lord Ambasdr. It was approved on by us.

[Ye 23rd 3 Peons were sent to Suratt wth my Ld Ambas letters. Ye 29th 2 Peons was sent to Bengall wth ye Ld Ambassdrs letters, as also letters from us†.]

Ye 1st Nov. ye contract was made betwn us Jno Pitt, Esq., Jno Graham, & Wm Tillard, & ye merchts of Metchlepm to bring in goods of 20458¾ Pag. by ye last of December next.

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* Entered in a later fo.

† Entered on the following fo.

" Ye 28th 9ber Mr. Luke Bright, surgeon's mate, dyed of a feavor, at 8 in ye morng.

" Ye 3rd Dec. betwn 12 & 1 at night dyed Mr. Philip Pitt ye parson of our factory of a feavor, both supposed to have proceeded first from a great cold they had gotten.

Ye —— ditto, ye new Navab made his publick entry through this citty, Metchlepatam. My Lord Ambassr stood in ye gallery to see him come by, & my Lord ordered 21 great guns to be fired as soon as ye Navab was seated in ye Banksoll; ye Navab took no notice of my Lord coming by, neither did my Lord take any notice of him, onely ordered his musick to be sounded all ye while they were passing by.

1700.

'ye 1st of Jan. we recd a letter frm Mr. Ben. Newse and Mr. Brook at Suratt, mentionin that Sr [Nic.] Wait came out in ye Mountague a mo before them, but was not yet arrived.

'ye 4th Jan. at 2 in ye mornyg dyed Mr. Rutter, a writer, of ye dropsy, having layn sick a great while.

ye 15th ditto ye President recd letters frm Fort St. George being ye news of Comadore Warren's death upon ye coast of Malabar' (and further letters on the 17th mentioning the death of Mr. Guy and others in Bengal and the serious illness of Sir E. Littleton). On the 17th " Vincatadre our chief Dubash was sent to ye Navab for to treat about gitting a Pherwanne [Firman] for ye freedom of trade etc., but when come thither he was detayned by ye justice of this place, upon ye account of ye Lascars, they complaing yt ye Compa owed ym monny. So they forced Vincatadre to stay, or find somebody else to appear as an atterney in ye Compa behalf. But this was such a disgrace to ye English nation, yt my Lord Ambassr & ye President was verry angry at it, & ordered ye gentlemen & all ye servts to gitt themselves ready to go up to ye Navab & demand Vincatadre. Upon wch order all ye armes were gott ready this night before they went to sleep.

" Ye 18th every one gott himself ready in order to go, viz: ye Presidt & Mr. Graham & all ye rest of ye factory and Mr. Harlwyn & Mr. Mills wth all his Lordship's servants, makeg together abt 40 men, all clothed in red, & well armed, (myself & 2 of ye writers were left at home to keep ye factory). But, as Providence ordered it, ye President & Mr. Graham went first to ye Ambassr for further orders and then 'twas concluded upon yt they would first send an Englishman to ye Navab's, to lett him know yt his Ldship resented it verry highly and withall to tell him yt was contrary to his former promises, & to lett him know yt if he did not reliese Vincratradre immediately he would write up to court & lett them know what an affront they had putt upon ye King of England's Ambassr. For order thereto there was a black man sent to lett ye Navab know yt his Ldship designed to send a message to him to enquire when he would be at leisure, and he returned answer yt his Ldship might send when he pleased, but no sooner was Mr. Mills, ye person agreed upon to send, gone out of ye house but Vincatadre came in, they having reliest him."

Mr. Mills however brought back an apology from the Nawab who withall ordered ye principall Lascar to be severely drubed with a chaabuck, or a splitt bamboe, for making this disturbance. It seems they heard what preparations ye English were making wch I believe was ye reason why they lett Vincatadre depart so soon, for we had news afterwards that ye Navab had ordered spyes to observe what we were adoing & ordered severall partyes of horse out, to give him notice when we were

acoming. The letters ye Presidt recd frm Fort St. George yesterday brought news likewise frm Achin, that ye people there had chosen an Arabian King & married him to their Queen, & had ordered that ye English there should pay custom, or else depart from thence in eight days; & likewise that there was a Pyrate who had blundered (*sic*) a Danish ship before Achin, & was gone afterwards (as is supposed) to cruise before ye straits of Malacca.

"Ye 23rd in ye morng arrived here ye Bengl, Capn Browne from Bengall bound for Madras & thence to England.

"Ye 5th Feb. arrived ye *De Grave* Capn Young from Bengall (she left March 15).

"Ye 3rd Aprill Mr Hale, one of ye Compa factors was cleared from ye Compa service, his Excelly desiring him to go up with him to court to look after ye Prests in ye room of Mr. Thorgood, who was sent to England on ship *De Grave*, he being non compus (*sic*) mentis.

"Ye 28th March we contracted with Metchln merchants for severall goods to ye amount of 55736¼ Pag., half to be brought in ye last of Aug. next, & ye remdr before ye last of December," (further similar contract on April 2, for 47,301¼ Pag.).

"Ye 9th April there was a consultatn, present his Excellncy my Lord Ambassd, ye Consull Jno Pitt, Mr. Jno Norris, Mr. Jno Graham, myself, & Mr. Thos Harlewyn, where it was agreed upon & found proper for ye Compt interest yt my Lord Ambassr should begin his journey to court 1st May next following, and that he should not stay for any his equipage, but if not ready to be sent after, & yt ye Consull & his councill should consider how much ye charges of ye Embassy will come to & provide monny for sd charges, as also how many Peons etc. for State attendency will be necessary to go wth my Lord likewise how much monny (or as nigh as can be guessed) has been laid out by ye consull or councill for acct of ye Embassy, also yt ye sd consull and councill should bring in an acct of what priviledges ye English ever enjoyed on this coast, & what more priviledges they shall think fitt to be enjoy'd in order for a free liberty of tradg, also yt they should consider of an interpreter, being disappointed of those gentlemen who were writt to at Fort St. George. An answere to sd perticers was requir'd by his Excellcy to be brought on Saterday next. . . . . (Note of contract same day for 5,000 additional coarse 'sallampores.')

"Ye 20th betwn 12 & 1 at night, Mr. Syls Phillips dyed in a convulsn fitt after haveg layn some time sick & very weak. Next day his Excellcy & ye consull recd letters from Surratt wch brought news of Sr Nic. Wait's safe arrivall there & of his kind reception frm ye Govr of ye place.

"Ye 23rd the Presidt & his councill recd frm his Excellcy in councill (by hands of Mr Harlewyn) a paper whereon he desired to know ye reason why everything was not ready for his dispatch to court in order to procure Phirmannds [firmans].

"The next day I careyed an answer to ye above paper, to his Excellcy, his brother Mr. Secy Norris being present. This answer was signed by ye President & myself. Mr. Graham was at Madapelm.

"Ye 3rd May we had a consultatn, present his Excellcy, ye consull Jno Pitt Esq., Tho. Norris Esq., and Mr. Jno Graham, Mr. Wm Tillard [the writer], Mr. Tho. Harlewyn, when there was a letter read frm Emaum Koulee, wch brought us news of his being upon ye road, upon wch it was agreed yt there was no reasn to send an Englishman to Golconda, but only 2 or 3 black peons (of wch Emaum Koulee's servt wch brought ye letter to be one), & so soon as they came to Golconda (if Emaum Koulee was not there) they were ordered to gett

300 Koolyes & 100 palenk^{n} boys & to bring y^{m} immediately for this place, but if Emaum Koolee was there, they were to apply themselves to him.

"Y^{e} 12^{r} y^{e} *London* sailed out of this road on her voyage to Malacca & fr^{m} thence to Bengall. S^{d} ship arrived here from Bengall y^{e} 3rd inst . . . . . .

"Y^{e} 27th May Emaum Koulee's son came to town with y^{e} originall Hassal Hukum etc. for convoy^{g} his Excell^{cy} to court. Y^{e} 30th, his Excell^{cy} called a councill to resolve upon y^{e} sum of mony, necessary to be carryed wth him [to] y^{e} camp. The Consull said it would be impossible to procure more than 34,000 Rup. & y^{t} he would give his Excell^{cy} a bill of credit to Golconda to take up there what other sums his Excell^{cy} shall have occas^{n} for . . . . . .

"Y^{e} 29th July died Mr. Arn^{ld} Browne stew^{d} of a feavor, ab^{t} a week sick. Primo Aug^{t} M^{r} George Peek was rec^{d} into y^{e} Comp^{a} service as writer. 15th ditto his Excell^{cy} . . . . went aboard y^{e} ship *Somers*, Cap^{n} John Douglas Com^{dr}, for Surratt. He went thro' y^{e} town in great splendour, viz.: first, from y^{e} great house, called King of Golconda's to y^{e} consull's. . . . . He went under y^{e} canopy of ½ a dozen Rundells, on black man to each, y^{e} consull following him wth 2 over his head, then his Excell$^{cy's}$ brother J^{no} Norris Esq., wth 2 over his head, after him y^{e} councill w^{ch} were onely Mr. J^{no} Graham & myself, y^{e} rest being dead. After y^{m} follow'd y^{e} factors & writers, & all y^{e} English Nation then in town, except^{ng} y^{e} old Comp^{a} servt^{s}, w^{ch} never would take any notice of y^{e} Ambass^{r}. Before his Excell^{cy} went his gentlemen, Mr. Mills & Mr. Hales, wth Mr. Harlewyn, Paymaster to y^{e} Embassy, who carried y^{e} sword of Justice before his Excell^{cy}, and before y^{m} went all my Lords Livery servt^{s}, there going onely 4 by his side; and before y^{m} went a comp^{a} of soldiers w^{ch} they took out of y^{e} ship, the barge crue (*sic*) going first of all with velvett caps & coull^{d} wastcoats, well armed. My Lor^{d} had y^{e} Union and King's flagg likewise before him, w^{ch} he ordered to be burnt so soon as he came into y^{e} Consull's house—I suppose because they were old and torn.

The same day, M^{r} Graham, y^{e} Sec^{d} was marryed to M^{rs} Charlton, sister to y^{e} Consull's lady. My Lord Ambass^{d} gave her, & so soon as y^{e} ceremony was over, & that we had dined, the Ambass^{r} went down to y^{e} water side (in order to embark) with the same State as before, y^{e} flags excepted, w^{ch} were burnt as before mentioned, y^{e} guns firing after he was in y^{e} barge, till he gott to y^{e} island within side y^{e} barr.

"Y^{e} 26th Aug., y^{e} ship *Somers* departed this road with my Lord Ambass^{r} on board in order to go for Surratt; the reason why his Excell^{y} took this method to go for y^{e} camp was occasioned by y^{e} impudence of y^{e} govern^{rs} in & about this town of Metchlep^{n}, who refused giv^{g} Dustick & necessary assistance for carry^{g} his pres^{ts} & retinue over land; and, y^{e} rains coming on, thought he might be sooner to y^{e} Mogull by way of Surratt.

Y^{e} 10th Sept., Mr. Sam^{l} Woolston was rec^{d} into y^{e} Co. service, in y^{e} quality of Merchant. He signed at y^{e} same time an indenture & bond to be true & faithfull to y^{e} English East India Co. trading to y^{e} East Indies.

Y^{e} 19th Sept. Capt. Praver arrived in y^{e} road, & sailed for Fort St. George y^{e} 25th.

Y^{e} 28th June 1700 y^{e} *Tankerville* Capt. Newman arriv'd in this road & y^{e} *Somers* Capt. J^{no} Douglas y^{e} 5th July following, both from England, w^{ch} was omitted. . . . .

Y^{e} 9th Oct. Mr. J^{no} Holden, Secr^{ty} departed this life, hav^{g} lain sick a great while wth a humour in his side.

1701.

Jan. 2nd arrived in this road ye *King William* Capt. Braddeel from Bengall & Visagapatam & sailed ye 15th for Fort St. George & from thence to England. . . . . .

Feb. ye 28th, arrived here ye *Tankerville* . . . . from Bengall, who went afterwards for Madapm Road, from wch place she was despatcht for England ye 16th March followg.

May ye 15th. Mr. Jno Graham, our Secd dyed of a fever in his head att Madapm, occassioned first per ye gout.

June ye 19th, ye *Stretham*, Capn Rogr Meyers arrived here from England, & ye 14th dto, Capt. Douglas Comdr of ye *Somers* was despatched to Bengall. He [had] arrived in this road from Surratt ye 22nd May before.

June 27th ye *De Grave* Captn Wm Young arrived in Madapm Road. She had but 3mo 20days passage from England.

July ye 6th we had news by a letter frm ye Captn & Mr. Niccols of ye sad misfortune of ye ships pinnis wch was oversett comg over ye barr of sd place. In her was Mr. Du Paz & his younger son, & his servt, also Mr. Bernadiston, formerly ye President's prentice, but this voyage designed for Bengall, Mr. Danel Studd, factor for this place, Mr. Mathw Pevison, writer, belonging to this place, who went off ye day before, who were all drowned, also all ye boats crew, except ye two who saved their lives by swimg on board again.

July 9th, sd ship *De Grave* arrived in this road, & was dispatcht to Bengall ye 31st.

July 18th. Mr. Samll Du Paz used some scurrelous words to ye Consull, & held his hand upon his sword as if he were going to draw itt, as I was afterwds told by ye Consull himself, for I was not present wn ye words was spoken.

Ye 22nd. Mr. Samll Du Paz & Isaac Abendana signed a £2000 bond to oblidge themselves to all such regulatns as ye Compa has or shall send out conscernirg private merchts wch bond was afterwds cancelled by Mr. Isaac Abendana abovesd by ye sd Jno Pitt & Isaac Abendana, but 'twas without my consent as per ye sevrll papers wch past betwn ye sd Jno Pitt & myself 'twill appear.

Octob. 1st ye *Dutchess* Capn Raymond Comdr arrived here frm Visagapn. Ye 22nd sd ship was dispatchd for Fort St. George & upon her went Mr. Samll Du Paz, who had sevll days before this thrown himself under ye protection of ye old Compa going into ye factory.

Octob. ye 27th we had news frm Mr. Orldo Niccols of ye *Katherin* Capn Wm Holman's arrivall in Masapm Road; ye same night we sent orders for ye Capn to come into this Road, but ye wind blowing fresh he gott not hether till ye 3rd Novbr following in ye afternoon. He came frm England ye 16th May before.

Mr. Orldo Niccols was recd into ye Compa service as factor for one year ye 1st Oct. last, & Mr. Thos. Prichward was recd as a writer ye same day for 5 yrs, but did not sign ye indentures till Novbr . . . . . .

1702.

The *Stretham* frigate, Captain Roger Meyers, reached Masulipatam from Bengal the 5th Jan. and left for England the 24th Feb. The *Rising Sun*, Capt. Arthur Holford arrived there from Canton the 14th Jan., and left April 29th.

"Ye 2nd March in ye evening we recd letter from his Excellcy Sr Wm Norris Ambassr dated ye 8th Feb., that he had recd his dispatch from ye great Mogull, wth a letter & present to ye King of England, & a present to himself; that he was now going to Surratt; and that Gousde Cawn ye Mogull's Generall had promised to send ye Phirmaunds [firmans] after him; and upon ye delivery of sd Phirmaunds to ye Ambassr, he is to pay sd Generall 250,000 Rups. We had news of his Excellencys going for Surratt.

"Ye 31st March, Mr. Saml Woolston was discared ye Compa service for speaking scandalous & shamefull words of ye Presidts Lady & her sister Graham, for wch words—and yt there might be a good understandg & union betwn ye Presidt and myself—I consented to his being putt out of ye sd service. Otherwaise ye Compa business would be impeeded by our differences."

News received on April 7 of arrival of the *Chamber* frigate, Capt. South, bound for China. Robert Glassel was received as a factor the same day.

On June 1, the *Charlton*, Capt. Goslin, sailed for China with Mr. Beavoir supercargo.

"23rd June recd lettrs from ye Presidt & ye Councill of Surratt . . . . giving an acct of ye Ambassdrs sailing from Surratt to Bombay in ye *Scipio*, and of ye death of Mr. Jos. Hale on board ye Bengll Merchr.

"July 27th ye *Mary* Gally, Capt Chamberlain frm Banjar arrived in this road, upon her Mr. Landen consull and President at sd place, bound for Bengall." (She left Aug. 4th).

"Ye 2nd Aug. about 6 p.m. came into the river ye ship *Norris's* pinnace wth 37 persons, bringing ye most dismall news of ye *Norris's* being blown up a little to ye southward of Deue [Divi] point about 4 o'clock ye same afternoon, occasioned by ye carelessness of a person drawg of brandy in ye Lazaretto about 7 in ye morning. The ship burned frm that time till 4 in ye afternoon when she was seen to blow up . . . . . by those which saved themselves in ye pinnace . . . . . Mr. Wm Anderson, Minister for the Bay, Thos. Talmash, Jno. Story, writers for dto, Edwd Belytha, Purser, etc., etc. There was immediately ordered 2 country boats to search after ye wreck. . . . . ."

The *Dolphin*, belonging to the old company, sailed for Bengal on the 7th, having arrived from Fort St. George 26th July preceding . . . . .

"Ye 10th Aug. ye *Hugliana* ketch sailed for Bengall, Jne Fountain master . . . . . We writt ye Presidt & Councill at Hugely [Hooghly] per the Ketch.

"Ye 4th Aug. we entertained Miles Crafts, Trumpr in ye Compa service at 5 Pg per Mo.

"Ye 18th, Mr. Thos. Nevile was turned out of his imploymt as steward & paymaster for sliteing [slighting] ye President's orders, he being ordered ye day before . . . . . not to go within ye house of Mrs Goslin, wife to Capn Goslin, where he went within an hour afterwards openly, in defiance to ye sd order. The reason of ye Presidts forbidg him ye sd house was his going thether 2 or 3 times before & once in perticular stayed within the house till between 9 or 10 at night, the permittance of wch would create reflections on ye Presidt etc., she being noted for a woman who allowed too much freedom to ye men . . . . . .

"Ye 2nd Septbr an order was delivered to Robert Glassell and Matw Waller how to act in quest of ye wreck & to sail immediately. . . . . Ye 4th they sett saile, in order to ye attaining Dewe point being not able to sett saile before by reason of contrary winds. . . . . .

"Ye 6th ye Presidt recd a Lettr frm ye Directors concerning some orders yt is to be given by him to Comdrs of ships homeward bound wch

letter no one was to see or know y^e^ contents thereof beside y^e^ President himself; and y^e^ President & Councill were enjoined per y^e^ Directors in their generall to them to order every Commander homeward bound to follow y^e^ orders given them by the President."

On the 8^th^ letters were received from Robert Glasseli as to his progress, and replied on the 9^th^ "y^e^ country people had seen severall dead bodies come on shore." . . . .

"Y^e^ 14^th^ Sept. in y^e^ eveng betw^n^ 4 & 5 our Peons were stop^d^ by those of y^e^ old Comp^y^ going by their factory, it being y^e^ Peons feast, att w^ch^ time they pretended it was customary to stop all other Peons from coming by their factory. But Mr. Frewen, y^e^ chief of their factory, his pretence for so doing was y^t^ one of our Peons had struck one of theirs, & made him bleed, which Peon he would have y^e^ Presid^t^ punish before he would suffer our Peons to pass. This was y^e^ message sent from Mr. Frewen to y^e^ consull, who sent for answer that he wondred Mr. Frewen would trouble him with such things w^n^ it was the peon's feast, & y^t^ he might happen to receive his bloody nose in y^e^ scuffle betw^n^ themselves, and sent to him not to hinder our Peons fr^m^ passing. But he, not regarding y^e^ consull's answer, but still kept our Peons from passing, and, to hinder them, placed his souldiers cross y^e^ street for which reason y^e^ consull sent to y^e^ Doerga, who, after he had sent 2 or 3 messages to Mr. Frewen, came himself & laid a Deray upon his Peons not to stir out of their places; afterwards went to our Peons, who waited for his coming out some distance from y^e^ old factory, whom he brought by said factory to y^e^ consull's house. The fusdar then sent a message to Mr. Frewen, to lett him know that if he did not lett our Peons pass by immediately, he would send and cut off his Peons' heads and Englishmens too, for s^d^ fustar did not yet know y^t^ they were past by already. Afterwards, about 9 o'clock, y^e^ consull rec^d^ a message fr^m^ y^e^ fusdar to acquaint that he had sent him 10 horsemen & 100 Peons w^ch^ were ready att his command, if he had occasion for them . . . . . .

"The Peon y^t^ Mr. Frewen would have had satisffaction from struck y^e^ other Peon in y^e^ scuffle that hapened when their Peons offered to thrust holes thro' our Comp^y^ flag, as they went thro' y^e^ Bazaar."

On Tuesday night, 15^th^, news was received from Madapollam of the death of Orlando Nichols "after having been sick some time of a flux and feavor."

"Thursday y^e^ 17^th^ Sept. at 3 in y^e^ afternoon [1] arrived at Madapollam." Arrival there of small ships, from Masulipatam, on 20^th^ and 21^st^, "after having sought for y^e^ Norris wreck in vain."

"Y^e^ 30^th^ we solemnised y^e^ death of King W^m^, firing 14 guns. Afterwards we rejoiced at y^e^ proclamat^n^ of Queen Ann, firing 15 guns.

"Y^e^ 7^th^ Oct. in y^e^ afternoon arrived y^e^ consull at Madap^m^. Y^e^ 8^th^ in y^e^ morn^g^ arrived here a Suratt Pattamar w^th^ a letter dated y^e^ 3^rd^ Sept. from y^e^ Resid^t^ Councill there giving an acc^t^ of King Wm's death, w^ch^ news they received per a French ship, also an acc^t^ of upwards of 150,000 persons drowned in y^e^ Mogull's camp per y^e^ great rains & overflow of a river . . . . . .

"Y^e^ 27^th^ Nov. at 2 in y^e^ afternoon I arrived here [Masulipatam] from Madap^m^ . . . . . y^e^ 29^th^ I deliv^d^ Rob. Glessell, Mat. Waller, & Mat. Wood their dispatches & orders here to behave themselves in respect to y^e^ wreck, signed per y^e^ Presid^t^ & myself . . . .

"Y^e^ 15^th^ Dec. arrived in this road the ship *Kathern*, Cap^n^ Sam Croft fr^m^ Malacca [Cap^n^ W^m^ Holman y^e^ former Com^dr^ dyed at Johoa [Johore].)

1703.

"Sunday ye 4th Jan. arrived here the *Phœnix*, Capn Caswell from Bengall bound for Madras and so to England. The 2nd March in ye morning ye *Katherine*, Capn Sam. Croft sailed out of this road for London, on board her as passengs Thos. Nevile and Geo. Peek.

"Ye 7th April we sett out frm Metchlm on our journey to Daurampaw [Dharapuram] in quest of ye *Norris's* wreck, viz., ye Presidt & myself wth Anto Suphy our Surgn & Mr. Raworth wth 3 other Englishmen, 8 Portugse, & ye rest Peons etc., black servts about 200 in all, beside Koolys & Kowrys.

"Ye 9th in ye morng we came to Pettepollee 6 lgs Gentui from Metchlm. We stayed at this place but 4 hours. Here we had like to have fallen foul of ye Haveldare. The occasion was as follows :—

The Armenian who had before writt us of his having seen ye wreck was come in with his vessell to this place & when ye Presidt arrived here came to see him. We had not been together above ½ an hour but ye Haveldar came wth all ye Peons he could muster to see ye Presidt when he was treated wth all ye respect due to him. We layed a carpet down upon ye grass for him & a Pallankin cushion to lean upon. The President and myself sitting in each our Pallankins; and I askt ye Armenian to sett down by me in ye Pallankin, wch, it seems, ye Haveldar so much resented—because he himself satt upon ye ground—that he tipt a wink to his head officer, who gave this Armenn a punch wth his sword, bes in ye scabbard, on his breast. The Armenian knew ye reason of it & immediately satt upon ye ground. But ye Presidt would not putt it up so, but enquired after ye reason of his so doing, which when he came to understand he, in a great heat, said ye Armenian was his guess (*sic*) & yt he should sitt were (*sic*) he pleased. And after a great many hott words, ye Haveldar was forced to order his officer yt struck ye Armenian to rise and begon—who before satt on ye left hand of ye Presidt. And by his so doing all was at peace again.

"Saturday noon we arrived at Yantapollam, ye next day being ye 11th, in ye morng we gott to Daurampar, wch is 5 leags Gentue to ye south of Pettepolee. The same day, we went to Alloer where we arrived abt 3 in ye afternoon, wch place is under ye goverment of Doud Cawn, Metchm government reaching no further then Dauramparr & Vellegapundee wch latter lyes 1 Gent. lg beyond ye Alber. About 9 at night we returned to Daurampar, where we arrived ye next morning early, when we made us harbours to keep us from ye sun and wind. The reason of our coming back was for the conveniency of water & rice—otherwise we designed for Carreera wch lyes 3 lg Gentue to ye southwd of Daurampar, & is on ye sea shore. This place of Dauramparr being 2 miles English up in ye country & lyes by a freshwater river, wch is deep enough for vessels of 200 tons, but ye entrance over ye barr is butt 3 covs at low and 4½ covs. at high water.

"Ye 16th Aprill one of ye head Rajarrs by ye hills came to see ye Presidt, bringg a shawl in his hand. The 21st we recd lettrs from Metchlm bringg an acct of Rustindill Cawn's publick entry at that place.

"Ye 8th May Presidt Pitt was taken wth an apoplectick fitt betwn 3 & 4 in ye afternoon, of which he dyed about 5 hours & a half after. [Next day] 3 o'clock we buryed him & after we had done so, began our journey back to Metchlm where we arrived ye 12th May in ye morng early."

The *Halifax*, Capt. Hudson arrived from Canton June 23rd and sailed for Bengal July 27th. The *Silvan*, Capt. Chamberlain, arrived from Batavia, in 5 weeks, July 28th.

Ye 17th Aug. all ye English in ye place excepte these in yt old factory went to Polleram, 1 lg Gent. from this place, to meet ye Presidts Corps, brought thither from Daurampar. We returned in ye evenge to Goodre, from whence we walkt to ye English garden, where we interred ye corps abt 8 that night.

Ye 25th ye *Dolphin* sailed for Fort St. George—on her Mrs. Pitt & her family."

31st Decbr (*sic*) recd a Packett frm Fort St. George bringe an acct of ye arrival of ye Tavestock there ye 14 dto from England, ye first ship arrived belonging to ye united Compa.

Ye 6th Sept. Mr. Danl Cole, factor, dyed affter some weeks sickness . . . . . .

Ye 25th dto, in ye evening, sett out frm Metchlm in order to go to Fort St. George overland, being necessitated thereto by ye impetuous clamours of ye Merchts for ye money owing them by ye Compa.*

"Ye 26th Sept. we arrived at Trimaneer fort abt 10 in ye morng & abt ½ an hour after at Nerracoedre & the next day we began to pass the river wch we were 3 days in doing having but 3 sangarees, & ye river very broad & ye freshes coming down. When we were over I sent to Tripatee for a boat to pass over ye other river about an hour's journey from us, but he put us off from time [to] time, so that we found he designed us a trick. But his enemy lying on ye other side of sd river, whom he was afraid of, he lent us a country boat to repass ye river we came over, which we did October 1, and having endeavoured all ways to gitt forwd on our journey & all in vain because of ye partys of robbers that lay on ye road, I writt ye 4 dto to Metchlm for ye Compa Country Bt wch we mett att Baherlanca ye 7th dto, and ye same day went down ye river in her as far as Chippaleer, designg for Pettepolle, but hearg from ye country people of that place that Pettepolle was also in trouble thro fear of ye robbers, we resolved to go over ye Barr of ye river, & so to go to Daurampar by sea. Accordingly we sailed frm Chippaleer ye 8th . . . & gott over ye Barr to ye southward of Pettepolle point . . . . & next morng . . . . came before Daurampar, but having a fair wind & fine weather we resolved to go as far as Kisnapatam river where we arrived safe ye 10 . . . . We run a great hazard 'tis true, in going in an open boat at this time of ye year, & so many people in her, viz: 3 English beside myself, & between 100 & 110 blacks, and with us we had a great deal of lumber amongst wch were 3 Pallankins beside Doolys. But we were forced to do as we did, else must have returned back to Metchlepm.

"Ye 11th Oct, in ye morng we went frm ye sd river over land to Duhraspatam, where we arrived in ye evenge. The 12th in ye morng we left Duhras . . . . . and arrived at Pollicat ye next day, & came to Ulwra.

"Ye 14th . . . . . we arrived at Trigature [Tiruchendur], about an hour and a halfs journey to ye northwd of Fort St. George. Abt. 2 in ye afternoon we went fro thence to Narraiads garden, where we arrived an hour afterwards, where we mett wth Mr. Wright & Mr. Raworth, 2 of ye Council of Fort St. George. We slept abt 2 hours at sd garden & arrived at ye Gov's garden abt 5 in ye evenge, the Govr made us very welcome.

1705.

"Ye 25 Feb. 170$\frac{4}{5}$. I went on board ye *Duchess*, Capt. Hugh Raymond, Comdr, bound for London, belonging to ye united Compa. The

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* *See* 13th Report, App. III., p. 14.

next day morng very early we sett saile out of y^e^ road of Fort St. George, in company with the *Chambers* frigate, Capt. South com^dr^ belonging to y^e^ old Comp^a^, & y^e^ *Marlborough* Capt. Minter com^dr^, belon^g^ to y^e^ seperate stock, both bound for London" . . . . . .

Storms were the only incidents in the voyage home till May 27, when the ship anchored in the road of St. Helena.

"Y^e^ 15^th^ July in y^e^ evening y^e^ Comadore fired a gun as a signal for all y^e^ ships to weigh anchor, w^ch^ was done, & we sailed fr^m^ St. Helena ab^t^ 10 y^e^ night, in comp^a^ with y^e^ *Tavestock* Cap^n^ Martin, *Chambers* frigate Cap^n^ South, *Samuel & Ann* Cap^n^—— y^e^ *Scipio* Cap^n^ Burrish from Bengall y^e^ *Kent* Cap^n^ Harrison from China y^e^ *Anna* Cap^n^ Kelly fr^m^ Bencoole; y^e^ *Rochester* Cap^n^ Stanes from Surratt, y^e^ *Sidney* from Fort St. George, y^e^ *Marlborough* Cap^n^ Minter from China, but last from Fort St. George, also 5 men of warr, viz.: y^e^ *Kingfisher* y^e^ Comadore Ship, y^e^ *Dartmouth* Cap^n^ Cock, y^e^ *Burlington* Cap^n^ Hosier, y^e^ *Scarborough* Cap^n^ —— y^e^ *Severn* Cap^n^ —— also a French ship taken per y^e^ *Dartmouth* in her outw^d^ bound voyage. Our whole fleet from St. Helena consisted of 16 ships.

"Y^e^ 23^rd^ July in y^e^ morn^g^ we came to an anchor at y^e^ Island Ascencion & sett saile again y^e^ next day even^g^ . . . . . .

"Y^e^ 31^st^ we came up w^th^ a small ship belong^g^ to y^e^ Portug^z^ from Brasile bound to y^e^ Guinea coast to buy slaves . . . . .

"Friday y^e^ 28^th^ Sept. 1705 verry early in y^e^ morning we came to an anchor before Kingsale."

J. H. Round.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF J. R. CARR-ELLISON, ESQUIRE, AT DUNSTON HILL, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

The papers of J. R. Carr-Ellison, Esq., of Hedgeley, Northumberland, and Dunston Hill, in the county of Durham, and preserved at the latter place, are of interest for the history of the trade of Newcastle-upon-Tyne throughout the last century. One of his ancestors, Ralph Carr, established a large connection with Scotland, Holland, Norway, and North America as a merchant and general shipping agent, to which he subsequently added the business of a banker. All the copy-books of his own business letters (but not the letters of his correspondents) have been preserved, amounting to some sixty or seventy volumes, and from these, which extend from 1737 to about 1783, much may be learned with reference to the commercial and banking transactions of the time. He mentions in one letter the fact that the shipping trade of Newcastle exceeded that of any other provincial port in England. The chief exports to America were coals, crown glass, bottles, lead, iron, and woollen goods; and the chief import appears to have been tar. The American correspondence of 1748–1775 is contained in two separate volumes; earlier letters are scattered through the preceding general volumes, but from the former year the colonial trade began to assume special importance. The letters cease at the beginning of the War of Independence. In one of the earlier letters Carr says to a correspondent, with reference to a young man whom at the latter's request he had sent out to him as a clerk, "There are few in England who have tolerable bread who would hire themselves to go to America." Many of the names of the persons with whom he corresponded may doubtless have interest for families in America at the present day. Some few of these it may be therefore be worth while to mention. At Boston, in 1748 and onwards, Messrs. Wendell, Ralph Inman (who continued a friend and correspondent up to his death), Edmund, Henry, and Josiah Quincy, Thomas Hutchinson (afterwards governor of Massachusetts), William Bowdoin (who arrived at Boston in 1748), Samuel Wentworth, Samuel Douglas, with many others; in 1764 some of the additional names are John Gould, Nath. and George Bethune, Samuel Scollay, hon. Andrew Oliver, James Griffin. At New York, 1749, Robert Commelin, John Bard, Joris Brinkerhoff, Adoniah Schuyler and Henry Cuyler, John Watts, Henry Lane, Philip Livingston; in 1764, Walter and Samuel Franklin, Lodowick Bomper, Thomas Vardill, Jacob Sarly. Mr. Carr naturally in the course of so long and large intercourse met with some dishonest traders; of one house at New York he says, "I have had too many bad chaps [*i.e.*, buyers, chapmen; *a term very frequently used by him in this sense*] in America, but they are the very worst"; in another, "In truth most of the Americans are too cunning for me." One Mr. William Fletcher, who left Boston for the safer Danish island of St. Eustathia, leaving his debts unpaid, excited special indignation; but in 1763 his character was re-established, a composition was paid, and correspondence resumed.

In Holland there was constant correspondence with the house of Thomas and Adrian Hope, and in Edinburgh with John Coutts, with whom and with the house of Coutts in London Carr was employed in the transmission of money to the army in Scotland in 1745 and in the supply of provisions.

The documents of earlier date than these letter-books are chiefly concerned with the estates and legal affairs of the family of Ellison. Many relate to Jarrow and to the Manor of Hebburne in that parish. But the following are all that need here be noted:—

1617, 5 Oct.—15 Jas. I., Conveyance from William lord Eure to William Mallard, of Studley, esq., Roger Tocketts, John Cholmley, and Robert Gere, and their heirs, of the site of the dissolved cell of Jarrow, with the rectory.

1652.—Rental of the impropriators of Jarrow.

1653, 2 June.—Conveyance from the two daughters and heiresses of Sir Henry Gibb, bart., deceased (viz., Elizabeth, wife of Richard Everard of Waltham, and Frances Gibb) and Edward Gibb to Thomas Bonner, and Robert Ellison of the lordship of Jarrow.

1653, 31 Aug.—Rental of the grounds, salt-pans, and impropriations of Jarrow.

1658, 15 Dec.—To an exemplification in the name of the Protector Richard, of a fine for the Manor of Hebburne, between Robert Ellison and Benjamin Ellison, merchants, plaintiffs, and William Hodshon, esq., and others, deforceants, is attached a very fine and perfect impression of a seal for the county palatine, which is probably, in this state at least, very rare. Obverse: Shield with the arms of the see of Durham, within a fancy border, viz., a cross between 4 lions rampant, "1656. Ad brevia in eodem com. sigilland. deputatum." Rev.: The Protector, on horseback; on the dexter, the same arms.

William D. Macray.

Notes from Letter-Books referring to the Rebellion of 1745.

1745, Sept. 15.—To Mr. John Coutts. "You may be quite easy about your gold, for shoud the Highlanders come this length 'tis easy put out of the way, but I apprehend they will not be allow'd to cross the Firth, nor have they any encouragement for so doing, as so few are ready to join them."

Sept. 24.—"Ere this you've heard of Sir John Cope's defeat, owing to the scandalous behaviour of the dragoons, who deserted without firing a shot, and got to Berwick." The victory, however, did not cause much alarm at Newcastle, for in a subsequent letter it was remarked that should England be invaded and the town attacked, it could not be taken without a train of artillery, which the enemy did not possess.

1745, Oct 1.—A captain is warned not to go to Dunbar, as advice came last night that 200 of the rebels were there.

Oct. 18.—An order is come from the Treasury to allow no ships to clear for Scotland.

Oct. 31.—"Butter will be considerably dearer in a few months, not only on account of a brisk foreign demand, but also for the supply of a large army in Scotland, which must be furnished from us."

Dec. 10.—"All letters to and from Scotland are shamefully stop'd upon the road; some people are of opinion they are first sent to London."

Dec. 14.—"M[ajor-gen.] Wade will be here by Thursday next in his way to Scotland . . . . with 1,600 men."

Dec. 22.—"Wade's army are now here, and buying a good deal of wheat to be ground into flour."

In November a ship belonging to Messrs. Hope under one Capt. Sinclair put into the Orkneys for repair being damaged; in April the news came that he had joined the rebels, taking the ship's guns, &c.; finally, the ship was taken by Capt. O'Brien in the *Sheerness*, one of the King's ships, and treated as a prize.

Notes from the American Letter-Books.

1762.—Some ale shipped in this year gave great dissatisfaction to several buyers, upon which Mr. Carr writes, "In truth the whole malt liquor of England is quite ruined by the last heavy excise, which was laid on to extricate your whole continent from being swallowed by the French; they neither use the quantity of malt nor hops they formerly did, and, what is worse, several unwholesome ingredients are, as it is too much to be fear'd, made use of, so that many parcels which we have ship'd of late have perished in the voyage, and we are resolved to ship no more.

1762, Dec. 17.—"The preliminaries [of peace] were taken into consideration a few days ago by the House of Commons. Mr. Pitt spoke for three hours and a half against many of the articles, and with good reason in our opinion as to some of them, for poor England is always weighed down with her raskally allies. On a division Mr. Pitt headed a poor minority of 65 against 319. In the House of Lords it never came to a division."

1763, Aug. 26.—"Just now eighteen great houses in Amsterdam are fail'd for many millions, also several chief ones at Hamburgh and Stockholm, which it is afraid will affect many more in London, Paris, &c."

Sept. 16.—"We have had prodigious success in our Greenland trade this summer; at first we sold our oil at £15 10 per ton, since which we have got £16 5, and this week for small parcels of five tons £18."

1764, March 6.—"Smith coals are advanced to 13/ per chalder, owing to the great scarcity occasioned by the prodigious storms of rain we have had for some months past, which prevented their getting any stocks from the mines." This was followed by a plentiful harvest in Aug. when there is "the finest weather imaginable like yours in America."

1764, Oct. 26.—In a letter to Sam. Wentworth, esq., at Boston (who died in Sept. 1766), mention is made of the return of one son, H. Wentworth, who had been with Messrs. Carr, and given them great satisfaction, and of another son at Eton, who appears to have returned home in May, 1765.

1765, Feb. 2.—"Coals were never known so scarce as at present in the memory of any person living, owing to the prodigious demand for London, and the scarcity of miners here since the last war. Many ships have been waiting here from two to three months for loadings of coals which they have not yet been able to get." In October of this year 500 vessels had been waiting in the harbour for six weeks unable to get any coals on account of a dispute between the coal-owners and pitmen.

A large consignment of American oak could not find a purchaser, not a single bid being made at a public sale. "The fault they find is not only with its quality, having a brown streak running thro' it, which they

term the *red horse*, but also on account of its great breadth and such variety ; it is also much curved or bent, so that it will cut to immense waste, and runs much narrower at one end than the other. All the English and Dantzig plank is first squared in the tree in the exactest manner to about 12 inches, which is the proper breadth, and requires neither hewing nor waste of wood. We imagine if yours had been cut so, there would have been less objection to it." It was sold at last in Nov. 1766.

1765, July 23.—Mr. William Dunbar, of Thurso in Caithness, "the son of a very reputable clergyman," is strongly recommended for employment on going out to New York.

1768, Apr. 29.—Mr. Ralph Inman is requested to make quest for "a very unfortunate poor lady at Roxbury," Lady Hesilrige, wife of the son [Robert] of Sir Arthur Hesilrige, who is enquired for by Mr. Jonathan Ormston, Sir Arthur's trustee, and who must make proof of her marriage. Also to interest himself on behalf of a poor woman of Newcastle, Hannah Nicholson, who has never received a legacy of £200 left her in 1763 by her son Edward Nicholson in Virginia and retained by one James Hunter there ; "we are determined to be at any expense or trouble in order to procure her justice."

May 12.—Shipping delayed for four or five weeks by riots among the sailors and keelmen for increase of wages, which they obtained to the amount of an increase of one-fourth.

1768, Nov. 18.—Letter to Lady Hesilrige at Boston : 120*l.* to be paid to her as the interest due on the 500*l.* legacy from the death of her father[in-law], Sir Arthur Hesilrige, and 20*l.* annually. "I most sincerely lament that your unhappy situation and worth were not known before the death of Sir Arthur; sure I am you and yours would have been provided for, but it is the hand of Providence, which is still able to conduct and assist you. No doubt you heard that Sir Arthur left his estate to the youngest of five sons, and even thought him very unworthy of it, and [I] doubt he has not been mistaken by the accounts I have of him. He is not yet of age; when he is I pray God he may have an inclination equal to his ability to assist you. For your son, as he will have the title, ought to have the estate likewise. I had much talk with Mr. Ormston as to paying you in the 500*l.*, but this he apprehends cannot be done till your children are of age, but when they get an estate in this neighbourhood sold for the payment of legacies and the other sons' fortunes, he will consult the nobleman [lord Maynard] who was left joint trustee with him."

1768, Nov. 18.—"It is a most lamentable consideration to this kingdom that there should be almost open war between one part and another. The colonists object to every mode of taxation, without ever proposing how much they will raise in their own way toward the millions of debt England is loaded with, and taxed to the very teeth to pay the interest of, and which was actually expended in the sole defence and support of the colonies."

1770, July 2.—Letter to James Hunter, Fredericksburgh, Virginia, demanding in the strongest terms payment of the legacy (mentioned under 1768) of which he has defrauded Hannah Nicholson. [Other letters follow on the subject; Hunter remitted money by instalments].

Same date.—Letter to Lady Hesilrige, urging her to send her eldest son over to England; he hopes the sight of him would warm lord Maynard (who is 80 years old) into compassion for the unmerited loss of his birthright.

1771, Apr. 4.—Letter to Lady Hesilrige, congratulating her on the reception her son has met with from lord Maynard, who in letters to

Mr. Ormston "expresses more of a parental fondness for him than my most sanguine wishes could even hope for." Enclosing a copy of a letter of thanks to lord Maynard, dated 30 March. [It is subsequently mentioned that the latter sent his young relation to school at Chiswick, and in April 1773 sent him to Calcutta. He died in the East Indies in 1805. Several original letters from Lady Hesilrige are preserved.]

1772, Feb. 12.—The river at Newcastle is closed with ice, putting a stop to all trade; "this, added to the misfortune of our bridge being carried away, which has stood for many hundred years, causes the greatest distress to this country, besides many hundred thousand pounds' loss by that unparallelled flood."

The last letter to Boston (about the despatch of coals, to be landed at Salem, in consequence of the closing of the port of Boston), is dated 16 September 1775. Four letters follow written to Robert Harvey, esq., at Grenada in 1775–8.

Original Miscellaneous Letters.

In the years 1708–10 there are letters to Robert Ellison respecting the sale of some land to him from Thomas Forster and Jane Fenwick, wife of lieut. Michael Fenwick of Hebborne. The former may no doubt be identified with the commander of the Chevalier's army in the insurrection of 1715. A letter from A[nne] Widdrington to Mrs. Carr at Bath, without date of year, is from the wife of the eldest son of the lord Widdrington who was attainted for his share in the same rising. The letter shows that in spite of forfeiture the son used his father's title; the writer (who dates from Bond Street, Saturday, 7 Jan., possibly 1749) sends an invitation to a concert which "my lord" has fixed for Monday, "23rd of thiss inst."; he "hass invited all the company, and engagd the musical people; it will begin at twelve a clock . . . . It is to be at Turnham Green, having no convinence for any sutch thing in Bond Street."

1758, Feb. 6.—A letter from Mr. Matthew Bell without address, to someone then in London, relates to one of the first issue of bank notes by the bank established by Mr. Carr and his partners. "I was desir'd to send you the enclosed to have a plate cut, for twenty shillings notes; one pound in the body of the note, and the twenty shillings at bottom, are both intended to be in the like hand that the sum is wrote in in the notes of the Bank of England, and a scrawel [scroll?] on the left hand, You will hear of the man who cut the plate for the other notes at Vere's; he lives in Wine Licence Court in Fleet Street . . . . You must also provide a large quantity of a strong tough paper for these notes."

1759.—A copy of an express sent from the Admiralty on 30 Nov. to Lord Ravensworth, giving an account of Lord Hawke's victory at Belleisle on 20 Nov., is communicated to Mr. Carr by one Nicholas Walton.

1760, Apr. 22, London.—A letter from Thomas Coutts, the banker, informs Mr. Carr that the business at Edinburgh will now go on, in consequence of the death of a partner, in the name of his brother James Coutts alone, who "is connected with some of the best families in England." In another letter in Feb. 1787 he says that he is the last of his family, so that the very name is likely to be no more, four sons having died in infancy, while three daughters survive. "Coutts brothers & C°" write from Edinburgh in 1762 to introduce Francis Garden [lord Gardenstone], the King's Solicitor for Scotland.

1761.—Lord Ravensworth on 28 March writes to communicate to Mr. Carr that he has great reason to believe that there is prospect of peace; he feels how tender the point is, and therefore only mentions it as a hint, supposing that in the course of Carr's great traffic abroad the conclusion of the war may make great alterations. He begs that not a word may be intimated as coming from him.

[1761, Oct.]—Edward Mosley [town-clerk of Newcastle] to Ralph Carr; not dated. "London is in a ferment about the resignation of Mr. Pitt and Lord Anson, but its thought those gentlemen will be soon reinstated. It is said the difference has arisen from some haughty memorial presented by the Spanish ambassador, recommending our Court to accept the proposals of France towards a peace, which being couch'd rather too insolently for Mr. Pitt's approbation, he was for having war declared against Spain forthwith; in consequence of which great debates arose, and the duke of Bedford handled Pitt a little unbecoming a gentleman of his station."

1763.—A letter from a lady at Bath named A. Hollier to Mrs. Carr, dated 31 Jan. 1763, gives an account of a scene in an assembly room there which, although little creditable to those concerned, would seem of a kind which at that time was not infrequent. "They say Bath hath been very full this winter, but we have kept snug to our private parties, and gone very little to the rooms. Indeed, my sister went to the Queen's birthday ball at Wiltshire's rooms, which was in general esteemed a very good one; but at the close of it they cooked up a little sort of a riot: for the candles went out before twelve o'clock, the music went off in the middle of a dance, and left the company in the dark, who could by no means get the music again or a replenish of candles, or even a little negus to drink, tho' they could prove the rooms cleared five and forty guineas by the subscription. Upon which one of the gentlemen said, he remembered upon such affronts as these it used to be custom to break the lustres and glasses; upon which hint there was negus produced in plenty, and the gentlemen threw it all over the room, broke eight bowls, and went off in a rage, swearing there should never be another ball at those rooms; but Wiltshire having made proper submissions they have passed it by, and the balls go on there as usual. Collet had carried himself off before upon some affront he had received, of which he has had plenty this winter, and since that night hath resigned his office to one Derrick, a little Irishman, to whom they say the rooms are to allow fifty pounds a year. If that is the case, it is no hard matter to prognosticate what authority he will gain, and how far it will be attended to."

1769–1771.—Three letters on matters of business from Mrs. Elizabeth Montague, the well-known foundress of the Blue Stocking Club. In one of them she remarks, "The town is in great impatience for the meeting of the Parliament. My great comfort is that we live in God's world, and not in one governed by ministers or their opposers . . . . . Most busy and zealous people in politicks mean either to keep a place or to get one."

1772, March 9, London.—L. Dutens to Mr. Carr. "One should not allow one's friends to be led astray by a dirty set of news writers, for which reason I set down to assure you that it is not true that the Queen of Denmark has undergone a tryall. Nothing in all this is certain but the cruelties exerced (*sic*) against the physician and his brother. The King of Denmark himself is looked upon as a prisonner, and he is under a strong guard by way of doing him honor; he is really supposed to be weak in his mind, and as the Queen Dowager and Prince Frederick are at the head of affairs it is thought he will be

aside soon . . . . . I was at a rout last Friday at Northumberland House; Miss Surtees was the prettiest figure there. I said we had two dozen such at Newcastle, to justify my stay there."

1773, Aug. 10, London.—David Brown, Governor General of the Danish Settlements in India, to Ralph Carr, requesting the loan of 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* for three or four years at 6 per cent. [There is a letter from John Brown, dated 21 Apr. 1772, proposing to Carr to invest in "our" Danish East India Company, for which a new charter had just been signed by the King of Denmark.]

1774, July 2, Parliament Street, London.—Letter from Governor Hutchinson to Ralph Carr, esq. "Sir, Soon after the recipt of your last letter I received the King's leave to come to England, but the state of my government obliged me to defer my voyage from time to time. I intended immediately to desire you to give your order upon me for the sum you proposed, and whenever you think fit to draw for thirty-five pounds, your draught shall be answered.

"After the most cruel calumnies and slanders I am happy in receiving from the King as full and explicit an approbation of every part of my conduct as perhaps has ever been given to any servant of the Crown. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant, Tho. Hutchinson."

Hutchinson had been a frequent business-correspondent with Mr. Carr up to 1763, but then their correspondence ceased in consequence of a dispute respecting some bullion-glass sent out by the latter; it was slightly renewed in 1768, and in 1773 Carr proposed a compromise which in this letter is accepted. In his reply, dated 8 July (of which the draft remains), Carr congratulates him on his safe arrival from a place where even his life was in eminent hazard; "the highest approbation of his Majesty must be thought by every man in old England no more than what your uniform conduct highly merited, and am glad to see so great a number of the most respectable and dispassionate in New England are of the same sentiments, which is a great consolation, tho' I hope the gratitude of the nation will not stop there."

1786, Aug. 13, Mountclare.—Sir John Dick, bart., Comptroller of the army accounts, to Mr. Carr. "The horrid attempt on the King's life gave every one the sensation of infinite surprise and alarm: that there should be in this kingdom one found to be so insane even to compass and imagine the death of the present King, and much more to make an attempt on his life, is matter of the highest astonishment. For altho' there may be much difference of opinion touching many of the political measures of his ministers, yet if ever there was a prince *sans reproche* in all his conduct and actions towards his people, he is the man; for he certainly never injoured (*sic*) one of them in his family, his property, or his persuasion in religion. Now as madness always acts from some impression of the mind and the impulse of some dominating idea, it seems unaccountable what idea could have instigated Margaret Nicholson. If the refusal to grant the prayers of petitions and memorials of grievances and distress be conceiv'd to be a just cause of assassination, not only kings but their ministers, their boards, and even their commissioners, will be of all men the most misarable (*sic*); but I hope there is not an other person like this diabolical woman suffer'd to go loose. His Majesty's presence of mind and composure were noble and striking; he enter'd the levée room a few minutes after, and no one present had the least suspision (*sic*) from his appearance that any thing extraordinary had happen'd . . . . . I hope you will have as plentifull a harvest in the north as we have here. The prices of the stocks will show you that money is also plenty here, except in the pocketts of the fashionable people, they take care never to

have plenty of anything but debts. If we can but preserve the peace for fifteen or twenty years, our successors will have the satisfaction of seeing this country in a happy situation; but to do this we must keep pace with the French, who are very busy in augmenting their navy."

1788.—A letter from Capt. W. Skerrett of the 19th Foot to Mr. Ralph Carr, dated at Lucea, Jamaica, 24 June, 1788, is worth quoting for the remarks made on the condition of the slaves in Jamaica. "Our situation here has been critical. We are not without our fears of an insurrection among the negroes. The extreme absurdity of your people at home has occasioned all this. The pious bishop of London [Porteous] and Mr. Wilberforce, with others, have laid the seeds of discontent, and flattered these unfortunate people with a prospect of emancipation. If ever this takes place, adieu to your West India islands. It is a pity that the original rights of mankind cannot be made the standard of government. It is a sad misfortune we can only justify by policy what morality condemns. The Legislature may soften the situation of this unfortunate race of human beings. The planters should be compelled to treat with attention the young, the aged, and the infirm; the woman who has brought the planter six children should have her freedom. Slaves who have been remarkable for their fidelity in giving information or suppressing of rebellion, the same indulgence should be extended to. The French treat their slaves much better than we do. They endeavour to soften their situation, are much kinder to them, and speak to them with mildness, and the negroes are found to be less stupid among the French. John Bull does not endeavour to conciliate their affections. He sees that they are well fed, but then he sometimes exercises those cruelties at which human nature no less recoils. I do believe it is tyranny that plunges them in that profound stupidity which we always see in a Jamaica negro." Capt. Skerrett encloses a copy of a memorial which he addressed to Sir George Yonge, Secretary at War, on 24 Aug. 1787, setting forth his claims, by service, to a majority by purchase, but complains of injury done him by Gen. Græme. He had been 29 years in the army, serving at Belleisle and Gibraltar, and in America and the West Indies. He quotes a letter recommending him for promotion which was written by Gen. Gould, the Commander-in-Chief in Carolina, to Sir Henry Clinton, after an action at Shewbrick's Plantation on 17 July, 1781, in which the General says that Capt. Skerrett received six balls, that his humanity to the wounded after the action was as conspicuous as his conduct, and "that he is this day one of the strongest instances of neglected merit that I ever was acquainted with in the service." Skerrett's memorial was presented to the King, whose gracious and flattering answer was, that he should be provided for.

In the same year Sir John Dick writes from the Horse Guards to Mr. Carr, strongly urging his assisting Capt. Skerrett to purchase his majority on the ground that "in times of peace, when past services are forgotten, and ministers are under the necessity of attending to political applications," there was little chance of his otherwise obtaining it. He would have to pay an advanced price over and above the King's regulation; "indeed, at present there are few purchases made at the regulation price."

1796.—A petition from the debtors confined in Durham Gaol on 11 Jan. illustrates the description of that prison and the condition of its inmates given by Howard, who says he found some there whose sole food was bread boiled in water; they beg Mr. Carr to assist them "at

this extreme time of need, being shutt up in this gloomy prision, and confined with the refuse and most abandond of mankind."

1798.—To Will. Seward's *Biographiana*, published with the date of 1799, is prefixed an allegorical frontispiece by Miss Harriet Carr, to whom the book is dedicated. The following letter to Mr. Carr, dated at Richmond 9 Nov. 1798, shows that the issue of the book had then already taken place. "Dear Sir, By the favour of your son I have the honour of your letter. I'm very glad that my compilations have amused you. No one knows better than myself their defects. Biography is however always read with ardour, and I fear your candour has in the subject overlooked the execution, the manner in the matter. Miss Harriet's frontispiece will very much promote the diffusion of the Biographiana. She has appended an exquisite Corinthian portico to a heap of ruins. I hear that she is about to change her situation to the entire satisfaction of those who know her and who love her best. I sincerely wish her in her new distinction as happy as they can wish her, and as happy as her talents and virtues entitle her to be. I am much obliged to you for your kind wishes to me, and have only to wish that I deserved the benedictions of worth and of virtue like yours. My kind wishes in return can only be directed to your cheerfullness and freedom from pain in the present state of your existence. The unmarred tenor of your valuable and excellent life has secured you every beatitude of eternity." (!)

1801.—The cruelty of the old press-gang system is exhibited in a piteous letter from one Edward Dodd, dated at Ponteland 20 June, appealing for help on behalf of a son, who had been taken when sent to sea for a trial-voyage to London; "in the Nore he was impress'd, and dragged away by oppression's savage grasp, and sent to Egypt or elsewhere to be butcher'd . . . . Oh, Sir, could you in mercy to the afflicted hit upon a plan to procure his liberation, I may say redemption, and restore a dearly beloved son to the arms of a fond father, you would do one of the most merciful and kindest actions a man ever did."

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE CORPORATION OF COVENTRY (Second Report).

At the outset of their labours in 1869, Her Majesty's Commissioners on Historical Manuscripts directed the late Mr. Henry Thomas Riley to repair to Coventry, and inspect and report upon the ancient writings of the Corporation of that City,—an order that resulted in the brief account of the Coventry Records, which was offered to students in the Appendix to the Commissioners' First Report in February 1870. As this sketch of an exceptionally numerous collection of historical muniments occupies no more than three columns of the Appendix, it is not surprising that, after a lapse of more than a quarter of a century, it has seemed right to Her Majesty's present Commissioners on Historical MSS. to issue a second and more adequate account of the several thousands of writings which Mr. Riley dealt with in so cursory a manner.

It must not, however, be assumed that Mr. Riley, who did so much good work in the service of the Historical MSS. Commissioners, is in any degree blameworthy for the inadequacy of his account of the Coventry muniments. At a time when the operations of the Commissioners were necessarily experimental and tentative, and when it was thought desirable that no long time should elapse between the creation of the Commissioners' powers and the publication of their First Report, Mr. Riley was instructed to examine the muniments belonging to the Corporations of Abingdon, Bridgwater, Cambridge, Coventry, Glastonbury, Norwich, Nottingham, Wells, York, and Christ's Hospital at Abingdon, and to send in reports on all these ten collections of muniments in time for their publication in the Appendix to the Commissioners' First Report. He was at the same time required to inspect the muniments of Christ's College, King's, Pembroke, Queen's, St. John's, St. Peter's, and Trinity in the University of Cambridge, the Bishop's Registry at Norwich, the Bishop's Registry at Wells, the muniment-room of the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, the muniment-room of the Dean and Chapter of Wells, and the muniment-room of the Dean and Chapter of York, and to furnish a written account of each of these twelve bodies of muniments so that it should appear in the same Appendix. It may be observed that the Letters under Her Majesty's sign-manual, which created the first Historical MSS. Commission were dated on 2nd April 1869, and that the Commissioners' First Report was dated on the 26th February 1870. It was, therefore, of course, understood, alike by the Inspector and by the Commissioners who required him to examine and report upon twenty-two different collections of muniments in the course of a few months, that his examination of each collection should be superficial and that his report upon it should be brief. In fact, in this opening stage of the operations of the Commission, it was intended that, instead of being lengthy and particular summaries for the satisfaction of historical inquirers, the reports by the inspectors should be such mere memoirs as would afford

a general view of the muniments lying in different parts of the country, and enable the Commissioners to see which of the many collections of ancient writings were most deserving of their consideration.

At the time of Mr. Riley's visit to Coventry, in 1869, something had been done for modifying the extreme confusion and disorder in which the multifarious archives of the Corporation were lying at the opening of the present century. Some thirty-six years had passed since Mr. Thomas Sharp and Mr. George Eld, two local antiquaries of more than ordinary intelligence and culture, had selected a considerable number of letters and other writings from an enormous and disorderly accumulation of archives (beginning with Queen Isabel's epistle to the Mayor and Bailiffs of Coventry *temp.* Edward III.), and had arranged them chronologically in two large folio volumes, which afforded to the Inspector the most important information in his report. Later antiquaries had gathered and bound into similar volumes a considerable proportion of the old Bills, Sacrament-Certificates, and miscellaneous papers, out of the piles of the less interesting writings. But though something had been done, and much was being done under the supervision of Mr. William Browett the elder, the then Town Clerk of Coventry, to lessen the confusion of the records, the main body of them was still in such disorder that Mr. Riley was quick to see that to give even a general view of so vast a collection it would be needful to spend twice as many weeks as circumstances would permit to spend days in the muniment-rooms of St. Mary's Hall. After giving a few particulars of the principal volumes he added at the conclusion of his report, "The Corporation is also in possession of charters and deeds, probably many hundreds in number, from the 12th century downwards." The "many hundreds" have, however, been found on recent and more deliberate examination to amount to no less than six thousand three hundred and forty-nine.

Like the muniments of Chester, Southampton, Ipswich, and King's Lynn, the Coventry muniments comprise writings that distinguish them from other collections of Corporation MSS. which the present reporter has examined in the service of Her Majesty's Commissioners. From the time of Edward III. to the period of the Reformation Coventry was remarkable for the wealth and importance of its Guilds and the number of its Chantries. By two grants made in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., negotiated for the advantage of the municipality by Sir Thomas White, the greater part of the lands, rents, and other property of these Guilds and Chantries passed into the hands of the Corporation of the City, and together with the lands and rents there passed also a large proportion of the records that related to them. Moreover, on the suppression of the ancient Priory and the demolition of the superb Cathedral Church of St. Mary of Coventry, many of the writings belonging to them, of like character as evidences of more property, were transferred to the Mayor and Citizens of Coventry, instead of being carried away with the main body of the archives to the Court of Augmentations. Hence in these accumulated writings, the Corporation possesses much that distinguishes these civic muniments from most, if not all, other municipal archives.

For giving a view of their character it will be convenient to deal with them in the following groups :—

(*a.*) *Books*, to the number of - - - 188 volumes.

(*b.*) *Charters, Letters Patent under the Privy Seal or Signet, with or without the Sign Manual, and Indentures granted by Sovereigns*, to the number of - - - - 89 writings.

(*c.*) *Deeds, to wit, Grants in frankalmoigne, Quit-claims, Leases, Agreements, Awards of Arbitrators, Testaments, Bonds, Powers of Attorney, &c., &c.*, to the number of - 6,265 writings.
(*d.*) *Exemplifications of Curial Records, Writs of special interest, and Letters of Commission, not being Letters Patent*, to the number of - 10 writings.
(*e.*) *Rolls and Files*, to the number of - - 18 sets.
(*f.*) *Miscellaneous papers*, put away in - - - 30 packets.

To afford an adequate notion of the total number comprised in these groups, it may be stated that a single file put together in the present century holds no less than 118 Statute Merchant Rolls, and that several of the packets of Miscellaneous Papers contain in each packet from 50 to 100 separate instruments. Account being taken of those that have been thus gathered together and bound into volumes, or made into rolls or files, or put away in packets, the separate documents may be computed as numbering altogether about eleven thousand.

1.—*Books.*

Of these volumes the most noteworthy are the following:—

1. Escheats.

27 Edward I.–16 Elizabeth.—Collection of Escheators' Inquests *post mortem*, bound together, lettered "Inq. Post Mortem."

2. Chartulary.

Henry IV.–Henry VIII.—Chartulary and Deeds Register: a vellum quarto in clog-cover, containing in the opening entries a few matters of earlier times.

3. Leet Books.

(*a*) 8 Henry V.–1 and 2 Philip and Mary.—Leet Book of the City: a book of the highest moment to students of municipal institutions and usages.
(*b*) 30 Elizabeth–1834.—A second volume, less interesting than the preceding one; but noteworthy in its earlier part for matters illustrating the government, condition, industries, and manners of the city in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

4. Craft of the Carpenters.

(*a*) Henry VI.–Edward IV.—Book of the Receipts and Payments of successive Masters of the Company of the Craft of Carpenters.
(*b*) 1478–1652.—Another Book of the Receipts and Payments of successive Masters.

5. Guild of Corpus Christi and St. Nicholas.

3 Henry VIII.–1 Mary.—Book of the yearly accounts of successive Masters of the Guild of Corpus Christi and St. Nicholas, closing with the account of Thomas Leche, bailiff of the possessions of the *late*

Guild of Corpus Christi for one year, made 24th November, 1 Mary. Defective in the later part. This bulky folio has been bound in a modern leather cover, correctly and fully lettered on the back.

6. Chamberlains' Books.

(*a*) 14 Henry VII.—16 Elizabeth.—Book of the yearly accounts of successive Chamberlains.

(*b*) 17 Elizabeth–11 Charles I.—A second Book of the accounts.

(*c*) 12 Charles I.–9 Anne.—A third Book of the accounts of successive Wardens and Chamberlains.

7. Manor of Cheillesmore.

1542–1561.—Account Book of the Manor of Cheillesmore, having this statement of its contents on its opening leaf: 'This booke conteyneth aswell the receites of al sommes of money brought in and payd to the Chambre or treasorie of the Citie of Coventrie, as well by the Chamberleyns wardens and all other accomptantes of the seid citie, as otherwise, yerlie commyng and growing to the use of the commoinaltie or comen box of the same citie, as also dyvers charities paymentes and deduccions out of the same, and also what revenewes and profittes and yerlie impositions and charges be to the citie for everie Meires tyme as hereafter in the same more plenlie may appear.'

8. Loans and Allowances.

(*a*) 1551–1704.—Folio Register of payments made, by way of loan or allowance, out of various estates held by the Mayor and community of Coventry in trust for charitable uses, to wit, the Charity Estates of Lady Spencer, Mr. Symon Parker, Mr. White of Bristowe, Mr. Willyngton, Mr. John Talente, Mr. Nethermyll, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Tompson, Mr. Over, Mr. Niccolls, Mr. Elkinton, Mrs. Elizabeth Sharratt, Mrs. Jane Picken, Mr. Wheatleye, Mr. Haddon, Mr. Sale, Mr. Davenport, and others.

(*b*) 19 Elizabeth–1625.—Similar folio Register of Loans and Allowances.

(*c*) 1736–1779.—Book of Loans: being 'An Account of the Loan money of Sir Thomas White, which has been retained by the Corporation of Coventry since the pronouncing of the Decree dated on the twentieth day of December in 1723.'

9. Overseers of Bablake Hospital.

1561–1573.—Separate Accounts of successive Overseers of the Bablake Hospital, bound together in a modern leather cover, correctly lettered on the back.

10. Municipal Treasury Books.

(*a*) 1561–1653.—Book of Payments made out of the Municipal Treasury. The first leaf is headed with this description: "In this booke be mencioned and wrytten all and singuler summes of money whiche have been taken of the Treasurie of this citie and payed."

(*b*) 20 Charles II.–1698.—Folio of yearly Accounts of successive Bailiffs and Receivers of the rents and revenues from the lands and tenements, &c., formerly belonging to the Guilds and Chantries.

(*c*) 1692–1701.—Large Folio of similar yearly Accounts.

(*d*) 1700–1701.—Book of Accounts of the Bailiff and Receiver of "the rents and revenues of the lands and tenements called the Guilds and Chantrys": containing a comprehensive Rental of the various lands, tenements and stocks in the hands of the Corporation for municipal and charitable uses.

(*e*) 1728–1734.—Book of Payments out of the same estates.

11. Charities.

17 Elizabeth–2 James II.—Large Folio of the yearly Accounts of successive Bailiffs and receivers of the rents and revenues from lands and tenements, &c., held by the Corporation for charitable uses.

12. Tithe Accounts.

(*a*) 1577–1697.—A defective collection of Tithe Accounts, bound together in a modern leather cover, lettered at the back, "City of Coventry. Tithe Accounts, 1597."

(*b*) 1608–1705.—Twenty-eight separate Tithe Account Books of the following years, to wit, 1608, 1609, 1611, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1619, 1622, 1675, 1679, 1684, 1685, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1697, 1698, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705.

(*c*) 1612.—Tithe-Book anno 1612: bound in a modern leathercover, lettered at the back, "Tythe Book—1612."

(*d*) 1822–1830.—Ledger of the City's Tithe-Accounts, lettered on one of the sides and on the back, "Corporation Tithe Accounts."

13. Lands and Tenements of the City.

23 Elizabeth.—Survey of all the lands and tenements of the Corporation of the City of Coventre "Surveid by John Emerson, the Bailiffe of the lands late Yeldes and Chauntries in the said Cittie, and Thomas Banester the Clarke to the Counsell of the same Cittie."

14. Lands of the Lordship of Stoke.

1617.—Survey of lands in the Lordship of Stoke, headed on its first page, "The Survey of those severall landes in the Lordship of Stoke, which the freehoulders and tenants intend to lay in several flattes, begonn the 26 daie of January 1617 and ended the . . . . of . . . . "

15. Flattes in Stoke Common Fields.

1617–1619.—"Booke of the laying forth of the Flattes in Stoke Common feildes and meadowes begonn March 12, 1617, and ended in September, 1619: Which was done by the opinions and consent of the names of theise which follow, viz., Mr. Thomas Ligons for Lord Berkeley and Mr. Ralph English his tenant, Mr. Christofer Waryn freehoulder, Mr. Samuell Myles for the City of Coventrey and for the Drapers being their tenant, Mr. John Hammond, Doctor in Physick freehoulder, Mr. Reginald Horne freehoulder, Mr. Christofer Roudell freeholder, and John Sharman tenant to the City of Coventre."

16. Lordship of Gadsby, co. Leicester.

1625.—A Terrier of all "the arable lands leyes and meadows" in the lordship of Gadsby co. Leicester, belonging to the Mayor, bailiffs and community of Coventre.

17. Burton's Book of Records and Evidences.

10 Charles I.—Burton's Book: a large folio described on its opening leaf as "A collection of divers Records, deeds, evidences, and proceedings concerning the great Suit in Chancerie brought against this Citie of Coventrie and others by Prince Charles for £98 6*s.* 8*d.* rent per annum as parcell of the Dutchie of Cornewall, taken out of the Tower, Augmentacion Office, Rolls and other places, and of certain charters belonging to this citie &c."

18. Ship-Money.

1635–1637.—Book of matters touching ship money: containing on its fly-leaf this note by the maker of the book: "This Booke touching ship money raised in Warwickshire sheweth the manner and proceedings thereabouts, and how that the Citie of Coventrey and the Countie thereof is to be rated but at a fifteenth part of Warwickshire, in all levies assessments and taxacions wherein the said Citie joineth with the countie of Warwick, and that it is so ordered by the right honourable the Lords and others of his Majesties most honourable Privie Councill, for the future quietness of that City in all such services and assessments whatsoever."

19. Hospital in Grey Friars Lane.

1648.—History of the Hospital or Almshouse in Grey Friars Lane in the city of Coventre, from the time of its foundation in the reign of Henry VIII.

20. Murage Book.

1650.—"The Murage Booke of all tenements within the walls of the City of Coventre."

21. Rate for better Maintenance of Ministers.

1652.—Book of "The Rate and Assessment of all houses, shops, warehouses, cellars, stables and all other landes, tenementes and hereditaments in the said citie of Coventrie at eighteen pence in the pound per annum, and for everie ten shillings nyne-pence per annum, for raising of maintenance for the Ministers of the said Citie by vertue of an Act of Parliament, dated the 21st of March 1650, intituled 'An Act for the more frequent preaching of the Gospell, and better maintenaunce of the Ministers in the Citie of Coventrie.'"

22. Corvisors' Company.

1653–1760.—An imperfect series of the Accounts of the Corvisors' or Curriers' Company, bound in a modern leather cover, lettered at the back "Cordwainers' Company, Accounts, 1653–1760."

23. Tailors and Clothworkers.

1659–1660.—Book of the Taylors' and Clothworkers' Company, in the time of Henry Ashburne, Master.

24. Indexes of Deeds.

(*a*) 17th century.—Index of Deeds, in handwriting of the later part of the seventeenth century, lettered on the back of its modern leather cover, "Citie of Coventre, Index of Deeds, &c."

(*b*) 17th century.—An Alphabetical Index to the Deeds and Evidences in the Treasury of the City, made towards the close of the seventeenth century, and perfected from an Index made in September 1621, which in May 1832 was in the possession of Mr. Thomas Sharp.

25. Sword and Mace Riots.

1713.—Papers touching a cause between the Attorney General, plaintiff, and the Mayor, bailiffs, and community of the City of Coventry, defendants: in a volume lettered on the back "Sword and Mace Riots 1713."

26. Tailors' and Sheremen's Company.

1728–1724.—Papers of the Tailors' Company, put together in chronological disorder, bound in a leather cover, and lettered on the back, "Order Book—Tailors' and Sheremen's Company 1728."

27. Drapers' Company.

1729.—Abstract of the Deeds and Writings of Lands, &c., belonging to the Drapers' Company in the City of Coventry: and lettered thus on the back.

28. Sacrament Certificates.

1720–1730.—Collection of Sacrament Certificates, bound together in a leather cover and lettered on the back.

29. Streets' Commissioners.

1790–1807.—Streets' Commissioners' Book, to wit, "Proceedings and Orders made at meetings of the Commissioner appointed to execute the Act of Parliament 'for the better paving cleansing lighting and watching the City of Coventry and the suburbs thereof, and removing and preventing nuisances and annoyances therein.'"

30. Register of Charity Estates.

1813.—Register of the Charity Estates of the City, lettered on the back of its leather cover "Charity Memorial Register," opening with "a Memorial or Statement in pursuance of an Act of Parliament for the Registering and Securing of Charitable Donations," giving particulars of "the Charity Estate called Sir Thomas White's Charity."

31. Leases of Charity Estates.

1819–1845.—Book of Charity Estates: setting forth the Estates under the management of the Trustees of the General Charities of the City, together with the names of the several lessees, the amount of rent paid yearly by each, the term of years for which each estate is let, and the date at which each term will expire.

32. Original Letters.

A collection completed in 1834 by Mr. Thomas Sharp and Mr. George Eld of Original Letters and Papers, beginning with a letter written in behalf of the Friars Minors of Coventre by Queen Isabella to the Mayor, bailiffs and commonalty of Coventre, and closing with the Indenture, dated on 24th October 1704, of the acknowledgment made by Samuel Billing, Maior elect of the City of Coventry, of his receipt of the silver plate and other things of the Corporation, and of his promise to restore the same to the Treasury on the determination of his mayoralty. This collection was made, arranged, and bound by Messrs. Sharp and Eld in two large folios, lettered on back "Original Letters and Papers."

33. Territorial Extent of Coventry.

1839.—Reports made by Mr. Stacey Grimaldi to Messrs. Troughton and Lea, solicitors of the Corporation of Coventry on the territorial extent of the town or city of Coventre, &c., after searching public and other records "in order to ascertain whether the Hamlets of Ansty, Exhall, Foleshill, Keresley, Sowe, Stivichall, Stoke, and Wyken are or were antiently within the town of Coventry or the jurisdiction of the same." Large Folio, lettered on the back, "City of Coventry. Reports as to the territorial extent of the City of Coventry and jurisdiction of the Corporation of Coventry over adjoining hamlets."

34. Coventry Boundary Case.

1839–1842.—Book of the Case for the City of Coventry, with brief delivered to counsel, in the cause in the Court of Exchequer between the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the City of Coventry, plaintiffs, against Edmund Lythall, William Wilson and seven others, defendants. Lettered on the back of its leather cover, "City of Coventry. Boundary Case. Brief, &c."

Those of the one hundred and eighty-eight volumes that are not mentioned in the foregoing list of the more important, comprise Rentals of 1552 and subsequent years, an imperfect series of Council Books beginning in 1557 (twenty-four volumes), fifteen volumes of Court Books beginning in 1585, a collection of Constables' Presentments (1629–1742), translations into English of divers of the Latin charters and Letters Patent of the City, ten volumes of Sessions of Peace or Petty Sessions Books (1689–1835), collections of Tavern Bills and other old bills, several compilations touching the history of Coventre, reports of municipal boards and committees, and divers other matters lying outside the scope of H.M. Commission on Historical MSS.

II.—Charters, Letters Patent; Letters under the Privy Seal or the Signet, with or without the Sign Manual; and Indentures of Leases granted by Sovereigns.

Earl Ranulph's Charter.

[1153.]—Charter dated at Covintre (*sic*) by Ranulph, Earl of Chester: Granting, with other concessions, to his burgesses of Covintre and their heirs, that they may hold in free burgage of him and his heirs as firmly and freely as they held in the time of the Earl's father and other ancestors; with grant to them of all the liberties and good laws enjoyed by the burgesses of Lincoln, and that they shall not be drawn in any matter to the Earl's Castle to plead, but shall have their own Portmote, in which all pleas touching the Earl and them may be dealt with.

Confirmation of the Earl's Charter.

[*c.* 1177 ?].—Charter by Henry II. dated "apud Merlebergam," of confirmation to the burgesses of Covintre (*sic*) of the charter granted to them by Ranulph, Earl of Chester; With further concessions, for the greater security of the liberties granted by the Earl's charter.

Licence to give Land to the Prior and Convent of Coventre.

31 Edward I., November 6th [1303].—Letters Patent of Licence to Peter de Blockesley to give and assign for ever to the Prior and Convent of Coventre a messuage and two virgates of land with their appurtenances in Sowe, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding.

Inspeximus of Henry the Third's Charter.

17 Edward II., July 10th [1323].—Charter of Inspeximus and Confirmation of Charter of Inspeximus by Henry III. confirming the Charter given by Henry II. in confirmation of the Charter granted by Ranulph Earl of Chester.

Foundation of a Chantry in the Churches of the Holy Trinity and of St. Michael.

13 Edward III., January 17th [1340].—Letters Patent (in French), dated at Risyngs Castle by the Queen-Mother Isabella, of Licence to John de Holland, chaplain, John Lemman, John le Porter, Richard de Stoke, William de Welneburghe and others to acquire and hold lands, tenements and rents, &c., to the yearly value of twenty pounds in the Queen's lordship of Coventre, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding, for the maintenance of a Chantry of six chaplains, to chant masses and other sacred services at the parochial churches of the Holy Trinity and St. Michael of Coventre, for the good estate in this life of the said Queen, and of her son the King, and of the Duke of Cornewaille, and for their souls when they shall have died, and also for the souls of the Queen Isabella's Lord Edward the late King of England, and the same Queen's dear son John late Earl of Cornewaille.

Licence for a Merchants' Guild.

14 Edward III., May 20th [1340].—Letters Patent of Licence to the men of Coventre and their successors to have a Merchants' Guild and a fraternity of brethren and sisters of the same Guild in the said town, and a Master or Keeper of the same Guild, &c.

Inspeximus of divers Charters.

15 Edward III., May 10th [1341].—Charter of Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Charter of Inspeximus by Edward II. of the Charter by Henry III. of Inspeximus of the Charter whereby Henry II. confirmed the Charter granted to the burgesses of Coventre by Ranulf Earl of Chester; With Inspeximus of a previous Charter by the present King Edward III., granting to the Merchants of Coventre, and to their heirs and successors being merchants of the same town, that they should be exempt for ever from toll, pannage, pontage, murage &c., in respect to their goods and merchandize throughout the said King's realm and dominion; With further concession to the burgesses and honest men of Coventre, that all Inquisitions made in the said town, before the King, his heirs, justices or ministers, or the justices or ministers of his heirs, respecting contracts, agreements, or trespasses made or to be made in the said town, or respecting lands and tenements within the same town, should and ought to be made by burgesses and men of the said town, and not by foreigners, so long as the matters to be enquired into touch neither the King nor the community of the said town.

Another Confirmation of the Earl of Chester's Charter.

15 Edward III., May 10th [1341].—The Inspeximus contained in the preceding charter, by itself, without the additional grant of privileges from Edw. III.

Foundation of the Guild of St. John the Baptist in the Churches of the H. Trinity and St. Michael.

16 Edward III., October 6th [1342].—Letters Patent of Licence to John Holand chaplain, John Lemman and four other persons to found and establish a fraternity and Guild in honour of St. John the Baptist in Coventre, and to hold lands tenements and rents, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding, for creating and maintaining chantries of six chaplains, to celebrate daily in the parish churches of the Holy Trinity and St. Michael divine rites and services for the souls of the said King's ancestors, and for the health of the said King, his mother Queen Isabella, his consort Queen Philippa and his children, and Walter de Chesthunt and William de Belgrave whilst they shall be living, and for their souls when they shall be taken from this life, and for the welfare of the brethren and benefactors of the said Guild whilst they shall be living, and for their souls when they shall have died, and for the soul of the King's brother John de Eltham late Earl of Cornewall, and for the souls of all who have died in the Faith.

Foundation of St. Katherine's Guild.

17 Edward III., November 12th [1343].—Letters Patent of Licence to Thomas de Ichynton, Nicholas Pake, William de Tuttebury, William de Overton clerk, Peter Percy, Richard le Darkere, Simon Wareyn, John Vincent and John de Pakynton, to found a fraternity and Guild of themselves and others, brethren and sisters, in honour of St. Katherine at Coventre, and to find three chaplains who shall daily celebrate divine rites for the souls of the said King's progenitors, and for the welfare of the same King, his mother Queen Isabella, and his consort Queen Philippa and the children of the same King and Queen Consort, and of Robert de Sadyngton, Master John de Thoresby, John de St. Paul, William de Thorp, Richard de Smetheton and William de Burgh during their lives, and for the souls of the same when they shall have died, and for the aforesaid grantees and the brethren and sisters of the said Guild and their benefactors during their lives, and for their souls when they shall have died, and for the souls of all who have died in the Faith, in the chapel of St. Katherine in the church of the hospital of St. John the Baptist in Coventre; with licence to the bretbren and sisters of the Guild to assemble yearly, to elect a Master or Keeper of the same Guild and the aforesaid chaplains.

Grant to the Guild of St. John the Baptist of Land for a Chapel.

18 Edward III., May 7th (1344).—Letters Patent (in French) dated by the Queen Mother Isabella at Risyngs, granting to the good people of the Guild of St. John the Baptist in the town of Coventre a piece of land called Babbelak in the said town, in order that they may there build a chapel in honour of God and St. John the Baptist, and have there two chaplains daily chanting masses and other divine services for the good estate of the said Queen's dear son the King, and of the said Queen Isabella, and of her dear daughter the Queen Philippa and of the Prince of Wales during their lives, and for their souls when they shall have died, and for the soul of the said Queen Isabella's dear Lord the late King of England, and for the soul of her dear son John the late Earl of Cornewaille, and for the lives and souls of the brethren of the same Guild.

Queen Isabella and the Manor of Cheylesmore.

18 Edward III., August 23rd (1344).—Letters Patent of Precept to archbishops, bishops, abbots, earls, sheriffs, and others: declaring the said King's will that his mother the Queen Isabella may have and enjoy for the whole of her life all the liberties and privileges in the Manor of Cheylesmore heretofore granted to the said Queen for life, and set forth in these Letters Patent.

Privilege of Electing a Bailiff, granted by Queen Isabella to her People of Coventre.

18 Edward III., October 18th (1344).—Letters Patent dated at Kenynghale by the Queen Mother Isabella, Queen of England, &c.; granting to her good people of the town of Coventre, during her

pleasure and their good conduct, that they may elect from amongst themselves a Bailiff, who may yearly render loyal account of the issues and profits arising to her from the same town.

Charter of Privileges.

18 Edward III., January 20th (1345).—Charter of King Edward at the instance of his mother Isabella, to whom the Manor of Cheylesmore had been granted for life, and also in consideration of the King's first-born son the Prince of Wales, to whose hands the said manor would pass after the said Queen's death, granting that the men of Coventre, tenants of the said manor, may elect annually from amongst themselves a Mayor and fit Bailiffs, and have cognizance of all pleas as well of trespasses, contracts and agreements as of other things arising within the town, and may have a seal for taking recognizance of debts, according to the form of the Statute for Merchants; and also that the said town may have a prison for the correction of malefactors, and that the Mayor and Bailiffs for the time being shall have the custody of the same prison and of the prisoners committed to it.

Confirmation to Queen Isabella and the Prince of Wales of Liberties and Privileges, &c. in the Manor of Cheilesmore.

19 Edward III., June 16th (1345).—Charter of Edw. III. dated at the Tower of London; confirming to his mother the Queen Isabella and to the King's first-born son the Prince of Wales the King's previous concessions touching the Manor of Cheilesmore, to wit, that she during her life and the Prince of Wales after her death may, either by their own stewards or by the Mayor and bailiffs for the time being of Coventre, have cognizance of all pleas arising within the liberty of the said town, as well as those respecting lands, tenements, and rents as those respecting trespasses, agreements, contracts, &c., together with all other privileges and powers heretofore granted to the same Queen and Prince within the liberty of the said manor, in which Coventre is situated.

Confirmation of Privileges.

19 Edward III., December 3rd (1345).—Letters Patent in confirmation of the grant heretofore made by the King, at the instance and request of the Queen Mother Isabella, granting to the men of Coventre, being tenants of the Manor of Cheillesmore, that they may have and yearly elect from amongst themselves a fit Mayor and bailiffs for the said town, and in confirmation of divers other powers and privileges heretofore granted by the same King to the men of Coventre and their successors.

Confirmation of three Charters of Edward the Third.

19 Edward III., December 3rd (1345).—Letters Patent issued by the King, at the instance of the Queen Mother Isabella, to whom the Manor of Cheillesmore pertains for her life, in confirmation of previous charters granted by him to the said Queen and the men of Coventre, tenants of the said Manor, to wit, (1) a charter granting, with other things, that the men of Coventre may have a Mayor and bailiffs

(as under date of 20 Jan. 1345, *supra*), (2) a charter granting to the said Queen View of Frankpledge of the said Manor and town, with forfeitures of felons and fugitives within the said Manor, &c., and (3) a charter granting to the said Queen and all the men of her said Manor freedom from pannage, passage, stallage, tollage, &c., throughout the said King's whole realm, together with other concessions to the same Queen and the men of her said manor of Cheillesmore.

Acquittance of Coventre in respect to the Charges of Fifteen Armed Men.

20 Edward III., August 16th (1346).—Letters Patent of Acquittance in consideration of a sum of £5 paid by the town of Coventre into the Exchequer, for the charges of fifteen armed men about to cross to parts beyond sea in the King's service.

Grant by Queen Isabella of Land in Her Park of Cheylesmore.

21 Edward III., June 14th (1347).—Grant by the Queen Isabella, dated at Risyngs Castle, for the term of her life, of a rood of land with appurtenances in Coventre in her park of Cheylesmore, to Peter de Stoke, merchant of Coventre, at a yearly rent of five silver pence.

Foundation of the Corpus Christi Guild.

22 Edward III., May 26th (1348).—Letters Patent of the King granting licence to Robert Chandos, John de Wynwyck, clerk, and seventeen other grantees, to found a guild to the honour of the precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, with a chaplain to celebrate daily divine rites and services for the good estate of the said King and of the grantees, and of the brethren and sisters of the same Guild, during their lives, and for their souls when they shall have died. With License to the brethren and sisters to assemble yearly, in order to elect a Master and Chaplain for their said Guild.

Confirmation of Privileges granted by the Queen-Mother.

22 Edward III., July 17th (1348).—Inspeximus by the King, confirming the Letters Patent dated by the Prince of Wales on 12th March in the said year, of Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Letters Patent dated by the Queen Mother Isabella at the Castle of Rysyng on 12th February in the same year, whereby the said Queen approved the Charter of liberties and privileges, by which her son Edward III. granted at her instance, to the men of Coventre, being tenants of the Manor of Cheilesmore, together, with other powers, that they might elect yearly a Mayor and bailiffs from amongst themselves and whereby the said Queen granted for her life to the same men all the liberties, &c., which the same King conceded they should enjoy after her death; and also whereby the same Queen granted to the same that they might have during her life a market, a fair, and view of frankpledge in the said town: it being stipulated in the last-mentioned Letters Patent that, in consideration of the concessions made to them in the same Letters by the said Queen, the men of Coventre should pay to her yearly during her life, the sum of £50, in two equal portions at the feasts of Easter and St. Michael in each year.

Precept Touching the King's Pardon of Coventre.

36 Edward III., October 18th (1362).—Letters Patent (in French) of Precept addressed to all justices, sheriffs, bailiffs, &c., enjoining that the commons of the town of Coventre be in no way molested contrary to the Pardon granted to them by the King.

Foundation of the Guild of the Holy Trinity.

38 Edward III., March 23rd (1364).—Letters Patent of Licence to Henry Kele and Thomas Orme, to found a fraternity and Guild to the honour of the Holy Trinity, and to acquire and hold lands, tenements, and rents to the yearly value of ten marks within the liberty and lordship of Coventre, and to hold the same to themselves and the brethren and sisters of the said fraternity and Guild and their successors for ever, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding, for the maintenance of two chaplains to celebrate divine rites daily in the church of the Holy Trinity of Coventre, for the good estate of the said King and his consort Philippa Queen of England and their children so long as they shall live, and for their souls when they shall have died, and for the souls of all the brethren and sisters of the said Guild and their benefactors and of all who have died in the Faith.

Confirmation by Richard II. of divers Charters.

1 Richard II., March 4 (1378).—Charter of Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Charter whereby Edward III. granted to the Merchants of Coventre and their successors to be free of toll, pannage, pontage, and murage, &c. With Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Charter granted by Edward III. (10 May 1341, *supra*) in confirmation of the Charter of Edward II., in confirmation of the Charter whereby Henry III. confirmed the Charter granted by Henry II., confirming the Charter given by Ranulph Earl of Chester to his burgesses of Coventre: With Inspeximus and Confirmation of other Charters of Edward III., conceding liberties, privileges, and powers to the burgesses of Coventre.

Confirmation of the Licence to Found the Guild of Corpus Christi.

4 Richard II., April 4th (1381).—Letters Patent of Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Letters Patent whereby Edward III., 26 May *an.* 22, granted Licence to Robert Chaundos, John de Wynwyk, clerk, and seventeen other persons to found a fraternity and Guild of themselves and other brethren and sisters, in honour of the precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ at Coventre, &c. (*ut supra*).

Ratification of a Grant of Land in Coventry.

8 Richard II., October 20th (1384).—Letters Patent in ratification of an indenture, whereby the Mayor, bailiffs, and chamberlains of Coventre on 26th December, 2 Rich. II. (1378) granted in fee-farm a piece of land in Coventre to Geoffrey Skartheburgh (*sic*) of Coventry and his wife Agnes, at a yearly rent of (—) shillings.

Licence to give Messuages, Land, and Rents to the Corpus Christi Guild.

16 Richard II., June 28th (1392).—Letters Patent, giving licence, in consideration of £50 paid to the King by the Guild of the precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in Coventre, to John Scardeburgh (*sic*), John de Wedon, Richard Marshall, Adam Deyster, and Nicholas Dudley, of Coventre, to give to the Master, brethren, and sisters of the aforesaid Guild twenty-nine messuages, eight acres of land, eighteen denariates of rent and one half of a messuage in Coventre, to hold to the said Master brethren and sisters of the said Guild, and to their successors for ever, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding, in order to find a chaplain to celebrate divine rites daily, and for doing certain other works of piety, at the ordinance of the said Master brethren and sisters.

Incorporation of Two Several Guilds into One Guild.

16 Richard II., June 30th (1392).—Letters Patent reciting the particulars of the foundation, &c. of the Guild of St. John the Baptist founded *temp.* Edward III., and of the Guild of the Holy Trinity founded in the same reign, and granting that the said two Guilds may be united in one Guild, under the name of "The Fraternity and Guild of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. John the Baptist of Coventre," and further granting that the same Guild may have power to hold within Coventre and elsewhere lands, tenements, and rents, &c. to the yearly value of £86 13*s.* 4*d.*, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding.

Licence to give Six Messuages to the Mayor, Bailiffs, and Community.

16 Richard II., August 4th (1392).—Letters Patent granting, in consideration of £20 paid to the King by the Mayor bailiffs and community of Coventre, licence to William de Okham, John de Martondeyster, William Palmer and Thomas de Sutton, to give, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding, six messuages with their appurtenances in Coventre to the aforesaid Mayor bailiffs and community for ever, and licence to the Mayor, bailiffs and community to hold the same for ever, in order to do and support certain works of piety at the ordinance of the said grantors.

Licence in Mortmain to the United Guilds.

16 Richard II, August 5th (1392).—Letters Patent of licence to Peter Percy, William Wolfe, Rolland Damet, Richard Verdon, Henry Kele, Adam Keresley, John Wedon and others and their heirs, or the Master brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, St. Mary the Virgin and St. John the Baptist and their successors, to hold certain lands, tenements and rents, &c. for ever, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding; the said licence being granted to give effect to the King's previous licence to the Guild to acquire and hold lands and tenements &c., to the yearly value of £86 13*s.* 4*d.*

Commission for an Inquisition touching certain Gates, Bridges, and Profits.

22 Richard II., November 13th (1398).—Commission "ad quod damnum" to William Bage, steward of the King's manor of Cheylesmore, and to Guy Spyne the escheator of Warwick, to enquire whether it would be prejudicial to the King's interest or the interests of other persons, should he grant to the Mayor bailiffs and community of the town of Coventre and their successors all gates, bridges, and profits thereof, within the following bounds; to wit, from Jabotsasshe to the mill called Nassyngton Mill to the corner of the stone wall of the park of Cheilesmore, and thence by the same wall and the palings of the same park to Baronneswell, and thence to the house of John Yats of Dudemanneswell, and thence to the church and cemetery of St. Nicholas of Coventre, and thence to Bottecrosse, and thence to Harnehale Qwarele, and thence to Gosford Green.

Licence in Mortmain to the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c.

6 Henry IV., November 12th (1404).—Letters Patent granted by Henry Prince of Wales in consideration of £10 paid to him by the Master brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist in Coventre, of licence to John Preston and William Whitchurch, both of Coventre, merchants, to grant four messuages, one toft, one garden and eleven acres of land in Coventre, and also the remainder of a messuage in Coventre which Agnes, formerly the wife of Thomas Brone late of Coventre, holds for the term of her life, to the Master brethren and sisters of the aforesaid Guild, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding, in aid of their livelihood and for the performance of certain works of piety according to the ordinance of the aforesaid John and William; with licence to the Guild to hold the aforesaid messuages.

Petition touching the Underground Aqueduct of the Prior and Convent of Coventre.

6 Henry IV., November 24th (1404).—Inspeximus and Exemplification of a Petition (in French), exhibited to the King in his parliament held at Coventre by the Prior and Convent of the Cathedral Church of Coventre, setting forth the pains and charges with which the petitioners and their predecessors have brought water by an underground aqueduct to their priory, complaining of injuries done to their said aqueduct by malicious persons, who also hinder the petitioners when they would survey and repair the same conduit, and corrupt the water of the Shirburn that runs to the petitioners' mills; and praying that henceforth no one shall be suffered to injure the said conduit, or to hinder the petitioners from surveying and repairing it, or to corrupt the water of the Shirburn by throwing entrails of beasts, garbage or other filth into it, under a penalty of £10 to the King and treble damages for injury done in those respects to the petitioners.

No more Guilds to be created in Coventre.

8 Henry IV., November 18th (1406).—Letters Patent of the King to the mayor bailiffs and community of Coventre, granting that no more or other Guilds than those at present existing in Coventre shall ever exist within the said city.

Licence in Mortmain to the Guild of the Holy Trinity.

10 Henry IV., February 16th (1409).—Letters Patent, in consideration of fifty shillings paid to the King by the Guild of the Holy Trinity the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist in Coventre, of licence to William Broke parson of the church of Ladbroke and his brother John Broke, and John Barbour of Bishopychynton, to give a messuage with appurtenances in Coventre to the Master brethren and sisters of the said Guild; with licence to the same Master, &c., to hold the said messuage, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding.

Grant to Thomas Porter, Valet of the Prince of Wales's Bedchamber.

13 Henry IV., December 1st (1411).—Letters Patent (in French) by Henry Prince of Wales, granting for life to Thomas Porter, valet of the said Prince's bedchamber, in consideration of his good service, a messuage of a hundred acres of arable land, twenty acres of meadow and an acre of wood, with the appurtenances, in Wodende called Ernesplace, which are held of the Prince, and have been seized into his hands because the Prior of Coventre purchased them and appropriated them without the said Prince's licence.

Confirmation of the Inhibition of more Guilds.

1 Henry V., March 8th (1414).—Inspeximus and confirmation of the Letters Patent whereby Henry IV. in his 8th year ordained that henceforth there should be no more or other Guilds within Coventre than those already existing.

Licence in Mortmain for the Mayor and Community of Coventre.

6 Henry V., June 10th (1418).—Letters Patent (in consideration of 40*l.* paid to the King by the Mayor and community of Coventre) of licence to John Leder, John Esterton, John Preston, Richard Southam, Lawrence Cook and William Dilcok, to give and grant for ever divers lands, tenements, and rents to the said mayor and community, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding.

Order for suppressing the unlicensed Guild of St. Anne.

8 Henry V. (?), November 22nd (1420).—Mandate addressed to the Mayor and bailiffs of Coventre, upon information that a number of young men, being "journemen" servants of divers tailors and other artificers of the said city, have assembled and held and continue to assemble and hold meetings within the Priory of the said city and the houses of the brothers there under the name of St. Anne, which action on their part may work to injury of the Fraternities of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi within the same city; Requiring the said Mayor and bailiffs to make proclamations against the aforesaid unlawful assemblies, and to arrest all persons who shall disregard such proclamations, and to hold the same offenders in safe custody, until the King

shall make further orders in the matter, and to make return of the principal persons who have brought about the said unlawful assemblies.

N.B.—It deserves attention that the "Guild of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John Baptist" is spoken of in this writ as simply the "fraternity of the Holy Trinity," the shortened form of description beginning now to come into general use.

Further Mandate touching the same Unlicensed Guild.

1 Henry VI. (?), March 8th (1423).—Mandate, addressed to the Mayor and bailiffs of Coventre, upon information that a number of young men, being journeymen tailors and other artificers of the said city have held and continue to hold assemblies within the Priory of Coventre, and in the houses of the brothers there, in order to maintain a guild under the name of St. Anne, to the prejudice of the Fraternities of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, and to the injury of the whole community: Requiring thereupon the aforesaid Mayor and Bailiffs to make proclamations prohibiting the said unlawful assemblies, and to arrest all persons disregarding the same, and to hold them in custody till the King shall have ordered their enlargement.

Licence in Mortmain for the Mayor and Community in Relief of Taxes.

2 Henry VI. November 16th (1423).—Letters Patent of licence to William Babyngton and William Botener to give and assign for ever, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanting, to the Mayor and community of Coventre a messuage with appurtenances in Coventre, yielding thirteen shillings and four pence, to be held by the said Mayor and community in part satisfaction of a grant, made by the present King's father to the same Mayor and community, of licence to acquire lands and tenements, &c. to the yearly value of 40*l.*, within the said city and the precinct thereof, towards the support of the burdens of the same city: The aforementioned grant by Henry V. having been made in consideration of the heavy burdens sustained by the Mayor and community in respect to the murage of their city, and of the fact that they neither possess nor ever have possessed any means for sustaining the murage and other burdens, apart from collections imposed upon the poor folk of the same city to their manifest injury.

Order for suppressing the Unlicensed Guild of St. George of Coventre.

3 Henry VI., February 14th (1425).—Mandate, addressed to the Mayor, Keepers of the Peace and bailiffs of the city of Coventre, upon information that a number of youths and men, being servants of divers tailors and other artificers, working by the day and called "journeymen," of the said city, have combined and held meetings in the Chapel of St. George and elsewhere within the said city, and have presumed without the King's licence to make themselves into a Guild or fraternity named the Fraternity of St. George of Coventre, and intend to maintain the same fraternity with collections amongst themselves, and have elected and do maintain Masters, clerks and other officers, to the injury of the Guilds of the Holy Trinity and Corpus Christi, and of the whole community of the same city: Requiring thereupon the aforesaid

Mayor, Keepers of the Peace, and bailiffs to make proclamations ordering the offenders to desist from holding such meetings, and from maintaining the same unauthorized Guild of St. George or any like fraternities, and to arrest all persons who disregard the said proclamations, and to return the names of the principal offenders into the King's Chancery, in order that they may be punished according to their demerits.

Pardon to the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c.

3 Henry VI., September 12th (1424).—Pardon to William Dilcok the Master and the brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist of Coventre, of all offences committed by them before the 8th day of December last past.

Further Licence in Mortmain for the Mayor and Community.

5 Henry VI., May 11th (1427).—Licence to the Mayor and Community of Coventry in consideration of the heavy burdens sustained by them in maintaining of the murage of their city, to hold lands, tenements and rents &c. to the yearly value of £40, in aid of the support of the said city, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding.

Licence in Mortmain for the Guild of Corpus Christi.

18 Henry VI. (1439–40).—Licence to William Donyngton, John Michell and John Whiting chaplain, to grant to the Master and brethren of the Guild of our Lord Jesus Christ the reversion of four messuages, a mill and a piece of land whereon stands a chapel built in honour of St. George, of the yearly value of forty shillings, which Lawrence Cook and his wife Alice hold for their lives in survivorship; with licence to the Master and brethren of the said Guild to enter upon and hold the said messuages to themselves and their successors, on the death of the aforesaid Lawrence and Alice, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding; the said licence being granted to the said Guild in part satisfaction of the grant, whereby K. Richard II. gave licence to the Master and brethren of the Guild to acquire lands to the yearly value of eight marks, for finding a chaplain to celebrate divine rites daily.

Confirmation of Letters Patent forbidding the Creation of more Guilds.

19 Henry VI., January 25th (1441).—Inspeximus and Confirmation of the Letters Patent, dated by Henry V. in the first year of his reign, in confirmation of the Letters Patent, whereby Henry IV. in his 8th year granted to the Mayor, bailiffs and community of Coventre and their successors for ever, that no more or other Guilds than those at present existing in Coventre should ever be established or ordained within the said city.

Grant of an Eight Days' Market to Coventre.

20 Henry VI., July 7th (1442).—Inspeximus and Confirmation of Henry the Second's charter to the Burgesses of Coventre: with further

grant by Henry VI. to the Mayor bailiffs and community of licence to hold yearly a fair for eight days, beginning on the Friday next following the Feast of Corpus Christi, as freely as they have hitherto from ancient time held a yearly fair for one day, on the morrow of the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Pardon to the Guild of the Holy Trinity.

25 Henry VI., October 21st (1446).—General Pardon to the Master brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Katherine the Virgin of Coventre, of all offences committed by them before the 9th day of April last past.

Pardon to the Mayor and Community of Coventre.

12 Edward IV., June 20th (1472).—Pardon to the Mayor, bailiffs and community of the City of Coventre of all offences committed by them before the last day of September last past.

Injunction forbidding Citizens to be retained by any Man unless in Necessary Service.

1 Henry VII., January 31st (1486).—Privy Seal Letters to the Mayor and Justices of the Peace of Coventre enjoining them to permit no citizen nor inhabitant of their city to be retained by any man except as "dwellyng servant or [in] his necessary office accordyng to our lawes and statutes therfore made and ordered."

Licence for Endowment of a Hospital in Bablake.

23 Henry VII., March 3rd [1508].—Letter Patent of licence to the Master brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist and St. Katherine the Virgin of Coventre, to acquire and hold lands, tenements and rents, &c. in mortmain to the yearly value of £50, for the support of a chaplain to perform sacred services and obsequies, and the maintenance of twelve poor men and one woman, to offer prayers for the King's health while living, and for his soul when he shall have died, and for the good estate of the brethren and sisters of the aforesaid Guild while living and for their souls when they shall have died, and especially for the soul of Thomas Bonde, late of the city of Coventry, and for the souls of all who have died in the Faith, in a certain chapel and house in a place called Bablake in the aforesaid city, now newly built to the honour of the Holy Trinity.

Groats and Double Placks.

23 Henry VII., May 27th [1508].—Letters Patent addressed to the Sheriffs of the City of Coventre, embodying a Proclamation to be published at divers places of the said city and county thereof, to inform the people of the differences between English "grotes and double plackes" which are so clipt, worn, and diminished as not to be rated as good coin, and those "grotes and double plackes" which, although they be in some degree worn, defaced and diminished, are to be rated and accepted by the King's subjects as good and lawful English money.

Pardon to the Mayor and Community.

1 Henry VIII. [1509].—Letter Patent of a General Pardon granted to the Mayor, bailiffs and community of the city of Coventre, of all offences committed by them before the 23rd day of April last past.

Pardon to the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c.

1 Henry VIII., May 21st [1509].—Similar Pardon to the Master brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist and St. Katherine the Virgin of Coventre, of all offences committed before the 23rd of April last past.

Grant to Ralph Swillyngton, Esquire.

14 Henry VIII., July 11th [1522].—Letters Patent of a grant for life to the King's well-beloved and faithful Ralph Swillyngton, Esquire, of the office of Steward of the King's lordship and manor of Cheilesmore in the county of the city of Coventre, and of all the King's manors, lands and tenements, &c., within the same county of the same city, and also of the office or offices of Master of the King's Park of Cheilesmore and of the venery of the same park, and Keeper of the King's woods within the same lordships, &c.

Promise of Repayment of Loans for the King's Wars against France and Scotland.

14 Henry VIII. October 3rd [1522].—Letters under the Privy Seal in which the King promises to repay to the lenders all the sums of money advanced by way of loan, for the maintenance of his wars against France and Scotland, by persons of the city of Coventre whose names are set forth in an indented schedule, and whose contributions of money amount in the whole to "oone thousand and nyne poundes thrytten shillinges four penys."

Another Promise to Repay Loans.

14 Henry VIII., November 17th (1522).—Privy Seal Letters promising to repay divers sums, amounting in the whole to £36 6*s.* 8*d.*, advanced by divers persons of Coventre (whose names are recorded in an annexed schedule) for the maintenance of the same wars.

A Third "Privy Seal" to the same Effect.

15 Henry VIII., May 19th (1523).—Privy Seal letters promising to repay numerous sums amounting in all to £150 11*s.* 0*d.* advanced by 194 persons of the city of Coventre and its precincts, to wit, persons "haveyng landes and tenementes from the value of xx*l.* to the yearly value of xx*s.*, and also that have moveable goodes frome the value of xx*l.* to the value of fyve poundes," whose names and sums are set forth in an annexed schedule.

This writ indicates that the poorer folk of Coventre were pressed for loans at this crisis towards the relief of the King's necessities.

Letters under the Great Seal to Levy Money.

16 Henry VIII., April 25th (1524).—Blank Letters of Commission under the Great Seal, appointing some person or persons to levy and gather the moneys granted by the King's loving subjects in Coventre "towards the recovery of" the King's "crown and realme of Fraunce and dyvers other domynyons and possessions . . . . rygtefully apperteigning within the same" to the said King.

For Punishment of Riotous Persons and Prevention of Riotous Assemblies.

17 Henry VIII., November 6th (1525).—Letters Patent of mandate addressed to the Mayor and Sheriffs and all right-minded persons of every degree and condition in Coventre, to take measures for arresting and bringing to punishment perverse and ill-disposed persons, who are set on renewing the riotous assemblies and disorderly routs in Coventre against the Mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the said city, that were recently suppressed by the punishment of divers persons, guilty of taking part in the disturbances.

Licence to the Guild of the Nativity of Jesus Christ to hold Land in Mortmain.

28 Henry VIII., May 10th (1536).—Inspeximus and confirmation of a Charter [stated in the present Letters Patent to have been dated by Henry V. in his seventeenth regnal year, by a curious mistake for Hen. VI.], granting licence to the Cutters and Fullers of the Guild founded to the honour of the Nativity of Jesus Christ in Coventre, to acquire lands, tenements and rents to the yearly value of ten marks, to find a chaplain to celebrate divine rites daily for the souls of the founders of the said Guild and for the souls of all who have died in the Faith; it being stated in the said Charter that the King Henry, who granted the Letters of licence, did so on the understanding that his progenitor Richard II. had in his time granted licence to the same Guild, to acquire and hold lands, &c. to the yearly value of eight marks.

N.B.—The curious error as to the date of the original Grant of Licence reappears in the Inspeximus of June 1st, 8 Elizabeth (as noticed in a later page of this catalogue) and seems also from that Inspeximus to have been found in Letters Patent of Edward VI. confirming the faulty charter.

Grant of the Reversion of certain Offices to John Hygford, Dapifer.

29 Henry VIII., March 11th [1538].—Letters Patent granting to John Hygford, one of the dapifers of the King's chamber, the office of Bailiff of the manor of Chellysmore in the county of the city of Coventre, and the Keepership of the same manor, and the place of Keeper of the park of Chellysmore, for the term of his life, from the time when the same offices shall become vacant by the death, retirement, or forfeiture of John Dyngley, one of the dapifers of the aforesaid chamber, to whom the same offices were granted for life by Letters Patent, dated 6th of February in the 15th year of the King's reign.

Lease of Orchards and Pools, late belonging to the Priory or Cathedral Church of Coventre.

31 Henry VIII., February 20th [1540].—Lease of twenty-one years at a yearly rent of £4 14*s.* 4*d.*, granted by the King to Henry Over, of an orchard called "le greate Orchard" containing eight acres, lying without the precinct of the late Priory or Cathedral Church in Coventre recently dissolved, and of another orchard called "la lytle orchard" containing two acres and a rood, late in the hands of the same Priory or Cathedral Church, and a piece of standing water called "the Swannss poole," containing an acre, and another piece of still water called "Newe Poole" containing an acre, which orchards and pools formerly belonged to the said late Priory or Cathedral Church.

Lease of Tenements and Lands to Hugh Wyatt of London, "Mynsterell."

33 Henry VIII., June 26th [1541].—Lease for twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of forty-one shillings and eight pence, granted by the King to Hugh Wyatt of London "mynsterell," of two tenements, two gardens, two orchards, two crofts of arable land and six acres of pasture in Stone, Wyken and Biggen in the county of the city of Coventre, called Biggencroft, &c. late belonging to the now dissolved Priory or Cathedral Church of Coventre.

Order for Payment of a Crown Rent.

34 Henry VIII., August 20th [1542].—Privy Seal, addressed to the "Chamberers" (*i.e.*, the Chamberlains) of the City of Coventre: commanding them in peremptory terms to pay forthwith to the Receiver of the "Revenues of thaugmentacions of our Crowne in our Countie of Warwick" under a penalty of £100 in case of further remissness, the sum of twelve shillings of arrears of the rent issuing from a tenement in Wellestret in Coventre.

Pardon to the City.

36 Henry VIII., February 12th [1545].—General Pardon to the Mayor, sheriffs, bailiffs and community of the City of Coventre.

Contribution in Aid of the King.

38 Henry VIII., May 16th [1546].—Letters Patent of Commission to John Hertford mayor of the City of Coventre, Sir George Throgmarton (*sic*) knt., and Sir Fulke . . . . knt.; appointing them to be commissioners to take steps for raising in the city of Coventre a contribution towards the aid of the King, in his need to resist his enemy, the King of the French.

Requisition for Payment of the Fee-Farm of Coventry and for Arrears of the same.

— Henry VIII.—Privy Seal letters to the Sheriffs of the City of Coventre: Requiring them, under a penalty of £500 in case of remissness on their part, to appear forthwith personally before Sir Robert Southwell, knt., and Bartholomew Westby, one of the Barons of the Exchequer to pay £200, due to the King for the fee-farm of the town of Coventre, and also to account for arrears.

Complaint by William Coke against Richard Marlowe.

— Henry VIII., July 9th.—Blank letters under the Privy Seal: Requiring certain persons (whose names are not filled in) to make enquiry touching the justice of the complaint of William Coke against one Richard Marlowe, set forth in accompanying Bill and Answer, and to certify the King and his Council of the truth of the matter.

Lease of the Little Park of Cheilsmore.

1 Edward VI., May 8th [1547].—Lease for twenty-one years, at a yearly rental of forty-four shillings, granted by the King to William Wightman, gentleman, of 'totum illud clausum terre nostrum vocatum *the little Park* . . . parcellam manerii de Chelismore . . . . quod quidem manerium est parcella terrarum et possessionum ducatus nostri Cornubie."

Grant of Bablacke Church to the Mayor and Community of Coventry.

2 Edward VI., December 13th (1548).—Letters Patent of the Grant made to the Mayor, bailiffs, and community of the City of Coventre, of the church of Bablacke in the said city, and of the campanile and cemetery of the said church, to have and to hold the same of the said King his heirs and successors for ever, by the service of one penny yearly, in free burgage: With further grant to the same of the issues, rents, revenues and profits of the same church, and of the bells, lead, iron, glass, jewels and ornaments belonging to it.

Lease to William Enderby.

6 Edward VI., March 10, [1552].—Lease for twenty-one years, from the King to William Enderby, at a yearly rent of fifty-three shillings and four pence, of a messuage and tenement in Earl Strete in the City of Coventre, late in the occupation of Alice Enderby and now in the tenure of William Enderby, and also of another messuage or tenement now in the tenure of William Herdy.

Grant in Fee Farm to the Mayor and Community of Messuages and Lands, &c., formerly belonging to Guilds and Chantries.

6 Edward VI., September 18th, [1552].—Letters Patent of a grant, made by the King in consideration of a payment of £1,315 1*s.* 8*d.*, in fee-farm for ever to the Mayor, bailiffs and community of the City of Coventre and their successors, of a large number of messuages, lands, tenements, and rents, &c., formerly belonging to the late Guilds of Corpus Christi and Holy Trinity of Coventre, and of messuages, tenements and rents, &c., formerly pertaining to divers Chantries in the same City, and of divers rents and moneys heretofore held in trust for the celebration of yearly Obits in Coventre or elsewhere, for the souls of deceased persons: to be held by the aforesaid Mayor, bailiffs, and their successors of the said King his heirs and successors as of the manor of Greenwich, co. Kent, at a yearly rent of £90.

Inspeximus of the Letters of Licence granted to the Guild of the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

1 Elizabeth, June 1st (1559).—Letters Patent of Inspeximus and Confirmation of Edward the Sixth's Inspeximus of the Letters Patent, whereby Henry VIII. in his 28th regnal year confirmed a Charter, giving licence to the Cutters and Fullers of the Guild of the Nativity of Jesus Christ in Coventre, to hold lands and tenements and rents to the yearly value of ten marks, in order to find a chaplain to celebrate divine rites daily for the souls of the founders of the said Guild, and for the souls of all who have died in the Faith.

N.B.—In these Letters Patent reappears the error found in the Letters of 10th March, 28 Henry VIII., describing the original Charter of Licence as a Charter of 17 Hen. V., instead of Hen. VI.

Manufacture and Monopoly of "Ulterfynes" and "Cromple Lysts."

10 Elizabeth, March 22nd (1568).—Letters Patent for the regulation and encouragement in Coventre of the manufacture of two sorts of woollen cloths commonly called Ulterfynes and Cromple Lysts, now usually made at Armentiers in Flaunders: It being granted by the Letters Patent, during pleasure, that no other person or persons than the Mayor bailiffs and community of Coventre, and such other persons in Coventre as are appointed by virtue of the same Letters Patent shall be allowed in England, or in any other of the Queen's dominions, to make or cause to be made "any of the said sort of clothes called Ulterfynes or Cromple lystes or any other Wollen Clothes lyke thereunto."

In connection with these Letters Patent there is an Indenture, made on the same day between the Queen of the one part and the Mayor bailiffs and community of Coventre of the other part, for the more precise regulation of the manufacture of and trade in the Ulterfyne or Utterfyne cloths and Cromple Lysts: containing orders for the breadth, length, weight and quality of the several pieces of the same cloth, and settling the penalties and punishments to be inflicted on manufacturers and dealers who disobey the orders.

Commission of Enquiry respecting Offences against the Laws for maintaining Horses, &c., and for taking Muster of able Men.

11 Elizabeth, July 18th (1569).—Commission, addressed to Ambrose, Earl of Warwick, Robert, Earl of Leycester, Sir Robert Throckmorton knt., Sir William Wigston knt., Sir Thomas Lucie knt., Sir William Devereux knt., and Clement Throckmorton and John Fisher of Pakington esquires, directing them to associate the Mayor of the City of Coventre for the time being with themselves, for the execution of a commission to enquire respecting all offences, committed since the 5th day of April last past against the laws for maintaining of horses and the provision of armour and weapons, and to take muster of the able men of Warwickshire.

Grant for the Reparation and Maintenance of Bablake Hospital.

14 Elizabeth, July 12th (1572).—Letters Patent granted at the request of Robert, Earl of Leicestre, for the reparation and maintenance of the Hospital of Bablake within the City of Coventrie, licensing the

Mayor bailiffs and community of the same city to acquire and hold for ever manors, messuages, lands and tenements to the yearly value of £100, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding.

Commission of Array for Mustering the Men of Arms of Coventry.

15 Elizabeth, April 24th (1573).—Commission of Array, appointing Robert Earl of Leicester, the Mayor of the city of Coventre for the time being, Sir Fulke Grevill knt., Sir William Wigston knt., Edward Eglionby esq., Thomas Rylay, Edward Dampard, Thomas Dudley, Richard Smythe and Henry Kirden, aldermen of the said city, to be Commissioners of Array, to muster and drill all the men-at-arms above sixteen years and under sixty years of age in the city of Coventre, as well horse as foot, archers and "sclopetarii" [*i.e.*, soldiers armed with arquebuses or carbines], and to instruct in military duty all the youths and men hitherto ignorant of military affairs in the said city.

Attached to this Latin commission appears in English, "a direccion for the Commissioners for the musters in the citie of Coventrie, how they shall proceed in the execution of the said Commission."

Inquisition "Post-mortem" of John Nethermyll.

17 Elizabeth, June 22nd (1575).—Inspeximus of certain Letters Patent, dated on 11th November 15th Elizabeth, of a commission to Edward Holte esq., Humfrey Ferrers esq., Edward Eglionby esq., and Arthur Gregory gentleman, the Queen's feodary in the county of Warwick, appointing them to enquire what lands and tenements John Nethermyll, late an alderman of the city of Coventre, held on the day of his death, and to return their inquisition into Chancery. With Inspeximus of the Inquisition, dated on 9th May, 17 Elizabeth, whereby the said commissioners certified that on the day of his death the said John Nethermyll was seized in his own demesne of the Manor of Eccleshale with its appurtenances in Eccleshale and Folleshill, co. Coventre, and also of four messuages, three hundred acres of arable land, one hundred acres of meadow, two hundred acres of pasture, four hundred of wood, and one hundred acres of scrub and briery, and of rents of £10 6*s.* in Eccleshale and Folleshull, now held, and which at the time of the said John Nethermylle's death were held of the Mayor bailiffs and community of the city of Coventre, as of the manor of Chellesmore, otherwise called their manor of Coventre, &c.

Commission of Array, &c.

19 Elizabeth, May 31st (1577).—Commission of Array addressed to Robert, Earl of Leicestre, the Mayor of Coventre for the time being, Sir Fulke Greville knt., Sir William Wigston baronet, Edward Egliambye (*sic*) esq., Thomas Ryley, Edward Damperd and Thomas Dudley, aldermen of the said city, to be Commissioners for mustering, arraying, inspecting and drilling, all the men at arms, horse and foot, archers and "sclopetarii" and all other able men within the city of Coventre.

Licence to Richard Butler to alienate a Messuage, &c.

40 Elizabeth, October 30th (1598).—Letters Patent of licence to Richard Butler, in consideration of thirty-three shillings and four pence paid by him, to sell to John Stapleton esq., a messuage with a dovecote, a garden, an orchard, . . . , acres of pasture, an acre of wood and two acres of arable land, &c. in the city and county of the city of Coventre.

Grant of the Almshouse in Bablacke to Trustees.

7 James I., July 15th (1609).—Letters Patent of a grant for ever by James the First (made in consideration of payment of £100) to Edward Stapleton esq., Henry Sewall of Coventrie, draper, and Humfrey Wightwick of the same city, grocer, and their heirs and assigns, of the Almshouse in Bablacke built by Thomas Bonde and the chapel and chamber adjoining the same Almshouse, and of a close of pasture called Hickfield in Coundon co. Warwick, and of lands, tenements and rents &c. in Old Fillonghley, New Fillonghley. Alspade and Merelbrookes co. Warwick, and of a messuage called the Moat House in Spoonestreete (*sic*) in Coventrie, and of divers other lands and tenements &c. in Coventrie and elsewhere.

Commission for raising a Loan.

2 Charles I., October 11th (1626).—Commission for raising a loan for the King in the city and county of Coventre: appointing William Earl of Northampton, Robert Earl of Monmouth, Foulke Lord Brooke, and the Mayor and aldermen of the said city to be Commissioners for the said purpose.

Commission for levying a Proportion of the Money voted by Parliament.

18 Charles I., April 4th (1642).—Commission appointing the Mayor of Coventre for the time being, and Henry Million, John Clarke, Thomas Ward, William Jeffyn and John Baker, aldermen of the said city, and John Hales and Richard Greene esquires, and Thomas Basnettt, to be commissioners for levying a proportion of the money voted by the present Parliament by an annexed Statute, entitled "An Act for the raiseing and levyinge of moneyes for the necessary defence and great affaires of the kingdomes of England and Ireland and for the payment of debt undertaken by the Parliament"; and further requiring the Sheriffs of the said city and county to aid the said Commissioners in executing their commission.

Letters Patent for the Re-constitution of the Corporation, and for the Confirmation of the Ancient Charters.

15 Charles II., July 6th (1663).—Letters Patent to the Mayor bailiffs and community of the city and county of Coventre, for the re-constitution of the Corporation; With Inspeximus and Confirmation of charters granted by previous sovereigns, to wit, James I., Elizabeth, Mary, Edward VI., Henry VIII., Henry VII., Edward IV., Henry VI., Henry IV., Richard II., Edward III., Edward II., Henry III., and Henry II.

Ordinances for the City's better Government.

35 Charles II., October 31st (1683).—Letters Patent of concessions and ordinances made by King Charles the Second, for the better government of the Borough and City of Coventre.

III.—*Miscellaneous Documents, to wit, Grants, Leases, Agreements, Awards of Arbitrators, Wills, Bonds, &c. to the number of* 6,265.

On taking my first view of the Coventry Muniments in February 1895, I found the multifarious writings of this most numerous group

lying with the Charters and Letters Patent in such confusion that, for the performance of the laborious task of reducing the manuscripts to order at the charges of the Corporation, it was necessary for me to open and examine cursorily each document. And whilst I did this part of the work for which the Corporation had invited me to Coventry, I withdrew 232 writings, to each of which I attached a descriptive label, for the convenience of persons visiting the New Muniment Room of St. Mary's Hall, in which I had undertaken to place in due arrangement the entire collection. Some of these labelled writings were selected out of regard to the excellencies or peculiarities of their penmanship; but excepting these few, the 232 selected deeds consist of writings that illustrate the social conditions of their periods, or are remarkable for the names of persons or places, or afford particulars likely to interest antiquaries or historical enquirers.

At the same time I withdraw from the mass fifty-five Indentures of Apprenticeship, the earliest of them being a remarkable and curious Latin indenture of Richard the Second's time, and put them away in a single packet in a drawer of Miscellaneous Matters.

The other 5,953 deeds, being for the most part conveyances or leases, I put away in labelled packets, each containing ten deeds. How many of these are dateless deeds of the time of Henry III. and Edward I., and how many were dated and sealed in each reign from that of Edward the First to that of her present Majesty, may be learned from the following table :—

		No. of Deeds.
(1)	Dateless Deeds, *temp.* Henry III. and Edward I.	490
(2)	Deeds with Dates, *temp.* Edward I.	176
(3)	,, ,, *temp.* Edward II.	405
(4)	,, ,, *temp.* Edward III.	1,518
(5)	,, ,, *temp.* Richard II.	341
(6)	,, ,, *temp.* Henry IV.	163
(7)	,, ,, *temp.* Henry V.	102
(8)	,, ,, *temp.* Henry VI.	309
(9)	,, ,, *temp* Edward IV.	159
(10)	,, ,, *temp.* Richard III.	20
(11)	,, ,, *temp.* Henry VII.	130
(12)	,, ,, *temp.* Henry VIII.	175
(13)	,, ,, *temp.* Edward VI.	32
(14)	,, ,, *temp.* Mary, and Philip and Mary	41
(15)	,, ,, *temp.* Elizabeth	278
(16)	,, ,, *temp.* James I.	241
(17)	,, ,, *temp.* Charles I.	479
(18)	,, ,, *temp.* Commonwealth	184
(19)	,, ,, *temp.* Charles II.	268
(20)	,, ,, *temp.* James II.	33
(21)	,, ,, *temp.* William and Mary	48
(22)	,, ,, *temp.* William III.	56
(23)	,, ,, *temp.* Anne	63
(24)	,, ,, *temp.* George I.	5
(25)	,, ,, *temp.* George II.	22
(26)	,, ,, *temp.* George III.	166
(27)	,, ,, *temp.* George IV.	6
(28)	,, ,, *temp.* William IV.	20
(29)	,, ,, *temp.* Victoria	23
		5,953

As this Report deals only with manuscripts now lying in the New Muniment Room, it says nothing of the Deeds of the seventeenth and two later centuries that are preserved in the Town Clerk's office.

Of the quality and historical value of the older Deeds, from the middle of the thirteenth century to the close of Charles the Second's time, readers may form a fairly correct estimate from the ensuing entries.

Land held by "The Knave."

Deed of sale and quitclaim by Vincent the son of Reginald Kempe to Robert the son of Roger de Cornlegh of a rent of twelve pence, which William Le Knave used to pay yearly to the said Vincent, from land which he held of the same Vincent. No date.

Grant of a Meadow in Spanne Field.

Grant for ever, by Adam Haldeyn to John le Lodelawe, of a yearly rent of four pence issuing from a shop in Coventre, and of a meadow in Spanne Field, at a yearly rent to the grantor and his heirs of a clove. No date.

N.B.—The place-name "Spanne" is variously spelt in the deeds *temp.* Henry III. and Edward I., *e.g.* Spon, Sponnd, Spound, Sponn, Spoon.

Grant of Land to John, Son of William the Painter, on his Marriage.

Gift for ever, at a yearly rent of a pair of gloves "de precio unius oboli," by Walter the son of Atherard the Painter of Coventre to John the son of William the Painter "in liberum maritagium cum Wymarkia filia Galfridi zonarii," of a piece of land in the street of Cheylismor in Coventre. No date.

"Upper Park Street" or "Upper Street of the Park."

Gift for ever of a messuage in Upper Park Street ("in superiori vico parci de Coventre") by Christiana de Milnehale in her virginity and lawful power to Geoffrey Le Luffe of Coventre. No date.

Gift to the Priory of Coventry.

Gift in almoigne for ever by Walter the son of Symon the clerk of Sowe to William the Prior of Coventre and the monks serving God there of a meadow within and without the fosse in the town of Sowe. No date.

The Meadow called "Enedemedwe."

Gift for ever of a meadow called "Enedemedewe" in Coventre by Robert Le Bussenville to John de Hwttele. No date.

A Marriage Portion in Sponne Street.

Gift, by way of a marriage portion, of a piece of land in Sponne Street in Coventre, to Matilda the daughter of Elias Le Waffrer and her affianced husband, Thomas the son of Thomas the mason of Coventre, and their issue, by William the Chaplain (son of Roger Le Waffrer of Coventre), uncle of the aforesaid Matilda. No date.

Quitclaim to Land in Coventre.

Deed of quitclaim, in respect to a piece of land in Coventre, by Matilda, formerly the wife of Henry Beket, in her pure widowhood, to John de Wytele, cook. No date.

Obligation of Symon Chatel to the Prior and Convent for View of Frankpledge.

Undertaking by Symon Chatel of Cundelin, that, in consideration of a grant of certain land in the town of Cundeline made to him and his heirs or assigns by Prior and Conventt of Coventre, at a yearly rent of forty silver pence, he and his heirs or assigns shall make two journeys in each year to the church of the Prior and Convent, for view of frankpledge. No date.

Grant in Frank-Almoigne to the Prior and Convent.

Grant in pure and perpetual almoigne by William Le Scot to the Lord William the Prior of Coventre and to the Convent of the same place and their successors, for the health of the grantor's soul and of the souls of his grandfather Robert Scot and his father Ralph Scot, of land in Aylwardesick near Whytemor and of lands and rents in Coventre. No date.

Quitclaim to a Messuage in Little Park Street.

Deed of quitclaim, in consideration of a payment of twenty shillings, by Roger de Burtigbury to Alexander the Vintner of Coventre, in respect to a messuage between "Littleparkstreth" on the one part and the land of Richard Le Coup on the other part. No date.

Grant of a Croft to the Vicar of St. Michael's.

Acknowledgment by Richard de Willowe, vicar of the church of St. Michael of Coventre, that he and his successors have received of the Prior and Convent of Coventre a grant in fee-farm in Kundeline for ever, at a yearly rent of two shillings. No date.

Gift of 7 Sellions of Land "in le Hokemilfeld."

Gift of seven sellions of land in Stoke "in le Hokemilfeld", and of a yearly rent of eleven pence issuing from a tenement and messuage in Coventre, by William Blaunchinal to Robert de Stokes and his heirs for ever. No date.

Proviso against giving certain Land to a Religious House.

Gift of a toft and an acre of arable land in the territory of Sponn, by Alice the daughter of William de Sponn to Symon de Lymeseye and his heirs, and to any to whom he may assign the same "preterquam domui religiose." No date.

Quitclaim of a Messuage and Land in Whitley.

Quitclaim, in consideration of a payment of half a mark, in respect to a messuage in Whitele and ten acres of arable land in the fields of Whitele, by Roger the son of Ormus to his brother Adam and the heirs of the same Adam. No date.

Park Street in Covintre.

Sale and quitclaim of certain land in Park Street in Covintre (*sic*) by William Blod to Richard de Bluke and his heirs and assigns for ever. No date.

While noticeable in Earl Ranulph's Charter, and in Henry the Second's Charter of Confirmation, to the burgesses of Covintre, this use of "i" in the spelling of the name of the borough appears also occasionally in the deeds *temp.* Henry III. and Edward I.

Yearly Rent of a Clove.

Gift in perpetual fee-farm by Robert de Lodelowe to Alexander the Vintner of Coventre and his heirs, at a yearly rent of a clove, of a meadow in Coventre near the mills called "the Altegeder Milnys." No date.

Deeds in the time of Henry III. and Edward I. often contain a stipulation for this nominal rent, the equivalent of the familiar "pepper-corn" rent in other parts of the country.

Sir Thomas Arderne, Knt., and Master Guy de Tyllebrok.

Gift by Sir Thomas Arderne, knt., "dominus de Rottel," of all his rents in Stoke, Radeford, Cundoline, and Coventre, with all the homages and services thereto appertaining, to Master Guy de Tyllebrok and his heirs for ever. No date.

Coventre Cloth-Market.

Gift by Robert de Eton to his daughter Felicia, of a piece of land with a building upon it in the Market of Coventre, where cloth is sold. No date.

Gift in Frankalmoigne to the Priory.

Gift in perpetual almoigne of two shillings of yearly rent, issuing from lands in Cundeline and Crowenhull, by Richard the Burser of Coventre to the monks there serving God, and especially to their Refectorarius. No date.

Lady Agnes Hauberch of Schaldeforde.

Gift of lands and tenements, rents and reversions, &c. in the town and fields of Coventre, by Thomas de Leghtoun of Coventre to the Lady Agnes Hauberch of Schaldeforde. No date.

Gosford Street in "Covintre."

Gift of a piece of land in Gosford Street in Covintre, by Reginald de Catisby, burgess of Covintre, to his son Symon and his heirs. No date.

Thomas the Weaver of Coventre.

Gift of a piece of land with a building upon it in Sponne Street in Coventre, by Henry the son of Thomas the Weaver of Coventre to Beatrice the daughter of Adam de Kiderminster, the grantor's sister. No date.

Quitclaim to Land and Houses in Earl's Street.

Quitclaim in respect to certain land with houses upon it in Earl's Street in Coventre, by Margery the widow of Ralph le Turner of Gloucester to Henry the Baker and Adam Russel and their respective wives Agnes and Alice. No date.

A Stall in Coventre Market.

Gift of a stall with its appurtenances in the Market of Coventre, by Simon le Botmonger to Richard de Fonte, at yearly rents of a clove to the grantor and of nine silver pence to the High Altar of the Blessed Mary of Coventre. No date.

Margery Pake, Niece of Master Richard the Vintner.

Gift by the widow Margery Pake, formerly the wife of Pagan Pake of Coventre to her son William, his heirs and assigns, of certain tenements in Coventre, which descended to the said Margery by inheritance, on the death of her uncle Master Richard the Vintner. No date.

Peter de Blocksley's Gift to the Prior and Convent of Coventre.

Gift in perpetual almoigne, for the health of the grantor's soul and the welfare of the souls of his ancestors and heirs, of a messuage and divers lands and tenements in Sowe with all things appertaining unto them, by Peter de Blocksley, clerk, to God and the Church of the Blessed Mary of Coventre and to Henry the Prior of the said place, and the Monks serving God there. No date. Also, a duplicate of the same deed.

Another Gift by the same Grantor to the Prior and Convent.

Gift in pure almoigne, for the welfare of the grantor's soul and of the souls of his ancestors, of a messuage and piece of land outside the town of Coventre, and a piece of land in the moor of Wytemor, by Peter

the son of Gilbert de Blockeley to God and the Blessed Mary of Coventre, and to Henry the Prior, and the Monks there serving God. No date.

Gift to Symon Pymme in Marriage Dowry.

Gift by William son of Hugh "Cocarius" of Coventre, of two shops in the Earl's Street towards Goseford to Symon Pymme upon his marriage with the grantor's sister Alice, a yearly rent of twelve silver pence being reserved to the grantor and his heiress. No date.

Alice Gardiner's Quitclaim to Dower in Land.

Quitclaim, made in her pure widowhood by Alice formerly the wife of Roger Gardiner of Coventre, to God and the Church of the Blessed Mary of Coventre, and to the Prior and Monks there serving God, in respect to her dower in lands in the territory of Harnhal formerly pertaining to her said husband, and also in respect to rents in Coventre which he sold to the said Prior and Monks. No date.

Marriage Portion in Land and Houses in Earl's Street.

Gift made by Richard le Brochere of Coventre of a piece of land with houses upon it in the Earl's Street, extending from the King's highway to the Castle Ditch ("extendit se a Via Regia usque ad fossatum quod vocatur le Casteldich"), and of a curtilage, to John de Rydewale on his marriage with the grantor's daughter Margery, to have and to hold to the same John and Margery, and their lawfully begotten heirs. No date.

Grant by Philip de Winchecumb to the Prior and Convent.

Grant in pure almoigne, for the welfare of the grantor's soul and of the souls of his wife and ancestors and successors, of a messuage at Spann ("ad Spannam") in Coventre, with its buildings, garden, dovehouse and curtilage, and of a croft above the garden called "Stathers-croft," and of another croft called "Christescroft," extending from the aforementioned croft to "Dedebone," and of eight "seyliones" of arable land in the field of Spanne and of five other "seyliones" in the same field, and of an enclosed meadow in the same field, and of the meadow which the grantor bought of William Payn, with an annexed place which the grantor had of the Prior of Coventre, and of the oven which the grantor bought of Richard de Wygorn' in "Cheilesmor Lona," with its buildings, rents, and appurtenances, by Philip de Winchecumb to God and the church of the Blessed Mary of Coventre, and to William the Prior and the convent of the same place. No date.

Bailiffs of the Earl and the Prior.

41 Henry III. [1256–7].—Gift by William the son of Robert le Redeknave of Coventre to Richard the son of William the Weaver, of a piece of land with a house upon it in the Bishop's Street in Coventre, which land Hawisia, formerly the wife of Adam Le Redeknave, held of the grantor in the name of dower: the witnesses of the deed being Richard de Bokvill then bailiff "ex parte Comitis," William Lewin

the bailiff "ex parte Prioris," John Lysner, Richard de Fonte, Roger the Miller, ['Molendarius,'] Alexander de Glovernia, John le Blund, John Yngeram, Hugh le Bretun clerk, and others.

Other deeds of the same period point to the fact that there were two bailiffs in Coventre *temp.* Henry III., one of whom acted for the Earl and was styled the Earl's bailiff, whilst the other acted in the Prior's interest and was designated the Prior's bailiff.

John Holoway, Miller.

25 Edward I. [1297].—Gift of a piece of land with its appurtenances in the Lesser Park Street in Coventre, by John Holoway the Miller to John le Wedon the Brewer: with seal.

Release of Eighty Sellions of Land.

25 Edward I. [1297].—Release and quitclaim, in respect to eighty "selliones" of land in Stokes in "le Hokenylefelt," by Isabel the widow of William Blanchynal of Stokes to Robert de Stokes and his wife Joan.

Joan Corvyn, Heiress of Philip of Barbedaveryl.

27 Edward I. [1299].—Grant for lives in survivorship by Joan formerly the wife of John Corvyn of Stokes to Robert de Stokes and his wife Joan, of divers rents and services issuing from tenements in Coventre, and also of liberties, commodities and easements which the grantor has, had, or was able to have, in Coventre, after the death of her ancestor, Philip of Barbedaveryl.

Land Adjoining "Gardiner's Croft."

28 Edward I. [1300].—Quitclaim by Margery the daughter of Robert Herbert of Coventre in her pure widowhood to John de Hales of Coventre, dyer, and his wife Margaret, in respect to a piece of land lying near the highway, leading from Coventre towards Harnhale "inter terram hospitalis Sancti Johannis de Coventre et terram Johannis le Gannter ex una parte et terram domini Prioris et Conventus de Coventre que vocatur Gardinerescroft."

William the Glass-Worker.

30 Edward I. [1302].—Gift of a piece of land in the Greater Park Street of Coventre, by William "le Glawrihte" to Hugh de Meryton.

Fields of Podycroft and Schocherefeld.

32 Edward I. [1304].—Gift of certain lands in the fields called Podycroft and Schocherefeld in Coventre, and three yearly rents issuing from as many tenements in Coventre, by Alice formerly the wife of Henry de Alecote, in her pure widowhood, to John de Langbene and Henry de Raynyrs of Coventre, merchants.

Quitclaim to the Prior and Convent.

1306.—Quitclaim by Alice, the widow of the late John de Chylton of Coventre, to Henry the Prior and the Convent of Coventre, in respect to any right or claim she may have by way of dower in a tenement called "Benfirlond."

Grant by Peter de Blockley to the Convent and Sacristan of Coventre.

35 Edward I. [1306-7].—Grant in perpetual almoigne of the grantor's third part of Wodenmilnebeye, with his meadow in Wykene, and his twelve denariates of yearly rent issuing from a virgate of land in the territory of Coventre towards Cunduline, by Peter de Blockels to Henry the Prior and the Convent of the Church of St. Mary of Coventre, and especially to the Sacristan of the said Church.

Benedict the Cutler of Coventre.

2 Edward II. [1308–9].—Quitclaim in respect to a yearly rent of twelve pence, issuing from a tenement in the Greater Park Street in Coventre, by Alice the daughter of Benedict "le Cotiler" of Coventre, formerly the wife of John de Todenham, to John de Ricon, &c.

Poultry Street towards the Gate of the Priory.

3 Edward II. [1309–10].—Quitclaim by John the son of John le Bolyngere to Peter Barun of Coventre, in respect to a messuage in Coventre, lying "in vico ubi pulteria venditur versus portam Prioratus."

Yearly Rent of a Rose.

7 Edward II. [1313–14].—Lease for lives in survivorship, by John de Wyteley of Radeford to Richard le Couper of Coventre, butcher, and his wife Alice, of a pasture called Enedmere in the territory of Radeford, at a yearly rent of a rose for sixteen years, and afterwards at a yearly rent of forty shillings.

Rose-rents are mentioned less often in Coventry Leases and grants than one would expect them to be in the deeds of a place so near Leicester, where they are so numerous.

Another Deed by William the Glass-Worker.

9 Edward II. [1315–16].—Gift of a messuage in the Greater Park Street of Coventre, by William "Le Glasrugthe" and Emma his wife to Roger de Bray and his wife Emma. [*See below*, 17 Edw II.].

Agreement touching a Rent and a Tenement.

10 Edward II. [1316–7].—Agreement between Robert de London of Coventre, chaplain, Roger Dayseye and his wife Matilda of the one part, and Walter de Norton of Coventre, cook, and his wife Amice, and Richard the first-born son of the same Walter, of the other part: whereby the said Robert, Roger and Matilda granted and conveyed

for life in survivorship to the said Walter, Amice and Richard an annual rent of ten shillings and sixpence from a tenement in Cheilesmorlane in Coventre, and also a lease of the same tenement, from and after the death of Richard de Wygorn' chaplain, who holds the said tenement for his life.

Lease with no Rent for Eight Years.

10 Edward II. [1316-7].—Lease for life of a croft in Bobynhul, lying between the highway and the garden of the rector of the church of Bobynhul, by Richard Quocus (*sic*) of Bobynhul to John de Lyndeseye of Bobynhul, to hold free of rent for eight years, and afterwards at a yearly rental of forty shillings.

Lease for Life or for Ten Years.

10 Edward II. [1316–7].—Lease for life or for ten years, of a messuage in the Greater Park Street of Coventre, by Henry de Mariton to Dionisia, formerly the wife of Philip de Barsham of Coventre: with a proviso that, should the said Dionisia die within ten years, her heirs and assigns may hold the said messuage till the end of the said term of ten years.

Four "Seliones" and One "Forera" of Arable Land.

14 Edward II. [1320-1].—Gift of four "seliones" of arable land with one "forera" and a meadow, by Henry the son of the late Richard Anneys of Coundelin to John de Edynghal of Coventre, cook.

Roger de Bray of Coventre.

17 Edward II. [1323–4].—Gift of a messuage in the Greater Park Street of Coventre by Roger de Bray to William de Leycestre, both of Coventre.

Friars Lane and Cheilesmore Lane.

17 Edward II. [1323–4].—Gift of lands and tenements, rents and reversions in "le Frerelone in Coventre," lying between the King's highway leading to "Cheylesmor grene" on the one part, and the land that formerly belonged to Master Richard of the Hall on the other part, by Richard de St. James of Coventre to Adam le Sadelere of Coventre and his wife Alice.

Lease of Priory Waste-Land, long afterwards called "Bagot's Waste."

1 Edward III. [1327].—Lease for lives in survivorship of an acre of waste land in the fields of Sowe, at a yearly rent of twelve pence, by Henry the Prior and convent of the cathedral church of Coventre to Thomas Bagot, his wife Petronilla and their daughters Katherine and Elizabeth.

Long known by the surname of the grantees under this lease, this piece of land figures amongst the Church lands of Coventre even in post-reformation time under the designation of "Bagot's Waste."

Agreement for sustaining a Party-wall and making and repairing a Gutter.

3 Edward III. [1329].—Agreement between Isolda formerly the wife of William de Grantham, in her widowhood, of the one part, and Margery Tynal of Coventre, in her virginity, of the other part, they being owners and occupiers of adjoining tenements in the Lesser Park Street in Coventre ("tenementa . . . . annexa in Minori Vico parci Coventre"): by which the said Margery undertook for herself, her heirs and assigns, to sustain the party-wall dividing the two tenements for ever, and the said Isolda undertook for herself, her heirs and assigns, to put a sufficient gutter above the same wall and to cleanse and repair the same as occasion should require.

Grant by the Prior and Convent to two Chaplains in St. Mary's Church.

4 Edward III. [1330].—Grant of a piece of land in Sponne Street in Coventre, at a yearly rent of two shillings, by Henry de Leycestre, Prior of the cathedral church of the Blessed Mary of Coventre and the Convent of the same, to Peter de Ruyton and Rowland de Bredon, chaplains, about to celebrate divine services in the nave of the said church.

Lease for Sixteen Years or for Life.

5 Edward III. [1331].—Lease for sixteen years or for life at a yearly rent of forty shillings, of a tenement lying beyond the bridges of Gosford in Coventre by Alice, daughter of the late Margaret who was wife of Richard Le Northerne of Coventre, in her widowhood, to Ralph Byllyng of Coventre.

Grant of a Corrody to Richard le Spicer by his Son.

6 Edward III. [1332].—Agreement whereby Henry Le Spicer and his wife Mary grant to Richard Le Spicer, father of the said Henry, a yearly rent of fifty shillings issuing from a tenement in Smytheford Street in Coventre, and further grant to the same Richard for his life a sufficiency of meat and drink at his own table like that provided for the grantors, and a fit place for his bed in the same grantors' own tenement, and fit clothes for the same bed, and a robe of fit cloth to be received by him yearly at St. Andrew's Feast with fit fur for an over-tunic, and in every second year a winter coat with a cap and suitable fur at the Feast of St. Michael, and a summer over-tunic at the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, and also a yearly livery of two pairs of linen clothes and four pairs of list shoes, and six pairs of shoes.

Grant of a Corrody for Life in the Priory of Coventre to Alice the Wife of Thomas de Radewey.

1335.—Agreement between Henry the Prior and the Convent of the cathedral church of Coventre of the one part, and Thomas de Radewey of Keresleye and his wife Alice, formerly the wife of Roger Locard, of the other part: whereby the said Thomas and Alice give to the said Prior and Convent certain lands &c., in the towns of Coventre,

Coundeline and Radeford, and the said Prior and Convent grant in return to the said Alice for her life a corrody in their priory, viz., to receive daily "unum panem album qui vocatur Michs et unam lagenam cerevisie conventualis," &c., and also grant to her a place of abode in a cottage with a curtilage in St. Nicholas Street.

Lease by Robert de Stoke to his Mother.

9 Edward III. [1335].—Lease by Robert de Stoke to his mother for the term of her life of his manor of Stoke, and of his meadows, pastures, rents &c. in Stoke, Coventre, Sowe, Harenhal, Styvechal, Pinnele and Radeford.

Richard de Somerby, Rector of Berkeswell.

14 Edward III. [1340].—Gift of a messuage in Spanne-strete in Coventre, by William de Kendale of Coventre, sadelere, to *dominus* Richard de Somerby, rector of the church of Berkeswell.

Rent of a Rose.

14 Edward III. [1340].—Lease for life, at the yearly rent of a rose-flower, of a tenement near Lodeloweslane in Coventre, by Jordan de Shepei and Henry de Dodenhale to Thomas de Merston of Coventre, baker.

Hugh the Son of Nicholas the Mason.

17 Edward III. [1343].—Quit claim, by Jordan de Shepye and Henry de Bodenhale of Coventre to Hugh the son of Nicholas le Masoun of Lemynton, in respect to twenty shillings of rent issuing from a messuage in the Frerelane in Coventre.

Conveyance to Thomas de Appach and William de Lalleford, Chaplains, and Another.

17 Edward III. [1343].—Gift, by Alice formerly the wife of Thomas in "le Hurne" in Coventre and by Thomas her son and by Emma the wife of the said Thomas, to Thomas de Appach and William de Lalleford, chaplains, and Philip del Pakes of Coventre, of a messuage with bakehouse in Spannestret in Coventre, and a wood in Whalburley near Coventre, with eight acres of arable land, and a place called Folewell in the territory of the same town, a croft near the highway leading to Alleysleye, three selions of arable land in Condulin, and an acre of meadow one half of which lies at Dodemanswell.

Agreement between Holders of adjacent Houses for making Gutters and repairing Walls.

19 Edward III. [1345].—Covenant between William Gatsys of the one part and Robert de Boresworth of Coventre, merchant, of the other part, whereby, in consideration of the said William's intention to rebuild his tenement and extend the same up to the tenement of the aforesaid Robert, the said Robert agrees that the said William may construct sufficient gutters for carrying off the water from the roofs of the adjoin-

ing tenements, and the aforesaid William agrees that so often as the walls and gutters between the tenements shall be broken or out of repair, to the injury of the said Robert's tenement, it shall be lawful for Robert and his heirs and assigns to enter the tenement of the said William Gatsys, into whosoever hands it may have come, and to distrain thereupon for the repair of the said walls and gutters.

Lease of a Messuage with Cellars in Earl's Street.

23 Edward III. [1349].—Lease for life, at a yearly rent of eight marks, of a messuage with cellars and a shop and other buildings with their curtilages and appurtenances in Earl's Street in Coventre, by John de Langleye and Alice, formerly the wife of Thomas de Colleshull, to John de Deneforde.

Grant of Land in Friars' Lane.

25 Edward III. [1351].—Gift in fee-farm of a piece of land in the lane of the Friars Minors of Coventre, at a yearly rent of two silver pence, by Nicholas Percy the Mayor and the bailiffs of Coventre to Sewall de Bulkynton of Coventre, William Luffe the elder, of Coventre, and Nicholas de Baddesley, chaplain, their heirs and assigns.

Lease by the Guild of the B. Mary in Coventre.

27 Edward III. [1353].—Lease for lives in survivorship, at a yearly rent of twenty-two shillings, of a messuage in the Greater Park Street in Coventre, by Walter le Whitwebbe of Coventre, Master of the Guild of the Blessed Mary of Coventre, with the assent of the said Guild, to Thomas Russel of Gretford, "packare" in Coventre, and his wife Matilda, and their first-born son John.

Gift by Sir John de Brocheford to Richard Sherewynd.

27 Edward III. [1353].—Gift of a bridge with a water-course, which Robert the Miller formerly held, and of a piece of land at "le Boleford," and a curtilage at Woodende, by Sir John de Brocheford, knt., lord of Arleye, to Richard Sherewynd.

Another Lease by the Guild of the B. Mary.

30 Edward III. [1356].—Lease for lives in survivorship, at a yearly rent of twenty-six shillings and eight pence, of a messuage in the Greater Park Street of Coventre, by William Holme, Master of the Guild of the Blessed Mary of Coventre, with the consent of the said Guild, to William Alleyleye and his wife Amice.

Gift of a Grange and the Reversion of a Messuage, &c.

30 Edward III. [1356].—Gift of a grange in Gosford Street beyond the bridge towards Gosford Asshe and the reversion (on the death of Richard Belers of Coventre, merchant) of a messuage and four fields in Coventre, by Nicholas de Baddesleye, chaplain, and Richard de Shepye of Coventre, hosier, to Richard the son of Ralph Billyng and his wife Alice.

Grant by the Prior and Convent of the Cathedral Church to the Altar of the B. Virgin Mary.

1360.—Grant, made at the instance of John de Newby, clerk, and in consideration of his payment of thirty shillings, by the Prior and Convent of the cathedral church of Coventre, of a yearly rent of eight shillings and fourpence issuing from eight selions and four virgates of arable land, and of an adjoining meadow near the Frechbroke in the field of Coventre, to the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the said church, where mass is sung daily for all the benefactors living and dead of the aforesaid grantors.

The Guild of the B. V. Mary and St. John the Baptist.

1362.—Lease to Geoffrey de Northefolke of Coventre, mercer, and his wife Joan, for their two lives in survivorship of a messuage in Coventre, at a yearly rent of four pounds of silver, by Henry Dilcok, Master of the Guild of the B. V. Mary and St. John Bapt. with the assent of the said Guild.

Grant of Rents of One Hundred Marks.

45 Edward III. [1371].—Gift of rents amounting to one hundred marks sterling, to be had yearly out of all the lands and tenements in the town of Coventre which the grantor had of the gift and feoffment of John de Thornton and Henry de Bisschopistone and William Walssheman, by Hugh de Brendesleye to William Walssman and his wife Beatrice.

Grant of a Messuage in Earl's Street.

46 Edward III. [1372].—Grant in perpetual fee-farm, at a yearly rent of four pounds in silver, of a messuage in Earl's Street in Coventre, by John de Papenham, John de Toftes, Ralph Palivere, John de Pounfret, Thomas de Bassyngton and William de Corby, of Coventre, merchants, to Robert de Canleye of Coventre.

Lease by the Guild of the B. V. Mary, St. John Bapt. and St. Catherine.

46 Edward III. [1372].—Lease for forty years, at a yearly rent of twenty shillings, of a messuage at Croschepyng of Coventre, by John de Toftes, Master of the Guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist and St. Catherine of Coventre, with the assent of the whole fraternity of the said Guild, to Edward Dedon of Coventre.

From this deed it appears that the three several Guilds of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist and St. Catherine had been united and reconstituted into a single "Fraternity or Guild," and that the above was the first and proper designation of the Guild, which was united with the Guild of the Holy Trinity in the 17th regnal year of Richard the Second, as noticed below under that date, for which a license was granted on June 30th in the year preceding.

Bond for a Lessee's Repair of Premises.

48 Edward III. [1374].—Repairing Lease for forty years of two granges with a house and ten cottages and a curtilage in Coventre, by

John Botener and three others, merchants, to Robert de Berkindale of Coventre: with a separate bond from the said Robert de Berkindale in 20*l.* sterling, for the execution from time to time of all needful repairs, within twelve months of their becoming needful.

Grant by Richard de Torke of Coventre, Clerk.

50 Edward III. [1376].—Gift of a messuage, with a house built upon it and a broad gate, in Palmerslane in Coventre, by Richard de Torke of Coventre, clerk, to John de Marton of Coventre, dyer.

Lease for Forty Years and for Life.

1 Richard II. [1377-8].—Lease for forty years and for life of a field in Coventre, near the church of St. Nicholas of Coventre, at a yearly rent of a rose-flower for forty years, and after the same term of years, at a yearly rent of three shillings and four pence, by Thomas Styward of Coventre to John Ingge of the same.

Conveyance of Lands formerly Henry Dodenhale's.

1 Richard II. [1377-8].—Grant by Nicholas Michel and Walter Whytewebbe, of Coventre, merchants, to Adam Botener and John Percy and eleven others, of all the lands and tenements, rents and reversions, meadows and pastures, &c., which the present grantors, in conjunction with Henry Clerk, Richard de Stoke and William de Bocheford, had by the gift and feoffment of Henry Dodenhale.

Noteworthy Indenture of Apprenticeship.

8 Richard II., September 15th [1384].—Indenture whereby Robert Wallis of Coventre bound himself to serve as an apprentice to John Thwening and Thomas Cawod of Coventre for six years, and in so binding himself promised, under the penalty of cancellation and forfeiture of the same indenture, that during the said six years he would commit neither "fornicacionem nec adulterium cum uxore, fillia (*sic*) nec nutrice nec ancilla dictorum magistrorum infra domum nec extra."

While this indenture is somewhat remarkable for being in Latin, it is more noteworthy for its limitations of the class of offences, which apprentices of later time could not commit with any persons or under any circumstances without rendering themselves liable to punishment by the forfeiture of their articles of apprenticeship. There is no reason to suppose that this indenture differs in this respect from agreements then usual at Coventre.

Licence to assign Messuages and Land to the Corpus Christi Guild.

16 Richard II. [1392].—Licence to John Skardeburgh, John Wedon, Richard Marshall, Adam Deyster and Nicholas Dudley to give nine messuages and six acres of land to the Master brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Statute of Mortmain notwithstanding: the said Licence being granted by the Prior and Convent of the cathedral church of St. Mary of Coventre, of whom the said nine messuages and six acres of land are immediately held.

Grant in pursuance of the preceding License.

16 Richard II. [1392].—Conveyance, made by authority of Letters Patent dated by the King on 28th June of the said year, of twenty-nine messuages, eight acres of arable land, eighteen denariates of rent and one half of a messuage in Coventre, by John Scardeburgh and the four others named above to the Master brethren and sisters of the Guild of the precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, to hold the same for ever, for the finding a chaplain to celebrate divine services daily for the benefit of the said Master brethren and sisters, and for doing other works of piety.

Licence granted by the Dean of Lincoln for the Same.

16 Richard II. [1392].—Licence from Master John de Shepaye, Dean of Lincoln cathedral, to John de Skardburgh and the four others named above, to give for ever to the Master, brethren and sisters of the Guild of Corpus Christi of Coventre, a certain messuage in Coventre, which is held immediately of the said Dean, to aid the said Guild in finding a chaplain to celebrate divine services.

Enfeoffment of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c.

17 Richard II. [1393–4].—Enfeoffment of the lands, tenements, rents, services and reversions pertaining to the Master, brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist and St. Catherine of Coventre.

This deed setting forth all the particulars of the property of the newly constituted Guild, covers several large skins of vellum. Unfortunately it has suffered so much from dirt and friction as to be in places illegible.

Discord between Sir William La Zouche, Lord of Haringworth, and John Stones, of the one Part, and Rowland Damet of the other Part.

6 Henry IV. [1404–5].—Award (in French) of Arbitrators—to wit, William Keresley and Thomas-atte-Chirche of Stoke—for the determination of discord and controversy between William La Zouche Lord of Haryngworth and John Stones of Eton, of the one part, and Rowland Damet, of Coventre, of the other part, respecting right and title in certain lands and tenements in Folkeshull, to wit, in three enclosed fields called Grendonfeld, Goldyfeld and Walkferlong, which the said John de Stones claims to have for life, the reversion being to the said Sir William and his heirs for ever, and of which the said Rowland and Margaret his wife claim one. The arbitrators direct that one part of the tripartite indenture which sets forth their award shall remain in the Treasury of the Guild of the Trinity in Coventre for ever.

In this instrument the Guild entrusted with the custody of one part of the indenture is briefly styled "the Guild of the Trinity," instead of being styled with its full title.

Long Lease of a Shop, &c., in Cross Street.

8 Henry IV. [1406–7].—Lease for a hundred years, at a yearly rent of twenty shillings of a shop with a chamber above it and with adjoining curtilages and garden, in the street of the Cross in Coventre, by the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the B. V. M. and St. John Bapt. to Robert Shepley of Coventre, merchant.

Quitclaim in which mention is made of a Pageant-House.

8 Henry IV. [1406–7].—Quitclaim (sealed) by John, the son and heir of Richard Clerke of Coventre, merchant, to William Attilburgh, Richard Southam the elder, John Wymondeswold, John Onley, John Preston and John Happesford, of all the right which he has, or after his father's death may have, in all the messuages, tenements, rents, reversions, &c., which formerly pertained to John Graupe in the Greater Park Street in Coventre, and in a grange with an adjoining garden, a cottage, two other cottages, one pageant-house ("uno Pagenthous") in Hull Street occupied by the Masters of "Whittaweres-craft," two other cottages in the same street, a curtilage in the same street adjoining the land of Richard Bykenhull, a great field called Merryholt, another field called Chillenfeld, and another field called Wyndemilnfeld, in Coventre.

The pageant-house mentioned in this quitclaim was one of the houses in which certain of the companies of Coventre preserved the stages on wheels and the other theatrical properties which they used in the performances of the Coventry Mysteries. Many particulars of these plays and theatrical appliances and the Coventry pageant-houses, collected by the late James Orchard Halliwell-Phillipps, may be found in the Illustrative Notes to his *Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare*.

Grant of the Messuage called "Bytteresiane" to the Guild of the Holy Trinity.

10 Henry IV. [1409].—Gift and Livery of a messuage called Bytteresiane, lying in Smythforde Street in Coventre, by William Broke, parson of the church of Lodbrok, his son John Broke, and John Barbour of Bysshoppesychynton, to John Scardeburgh, Master of the Guild of the Holy Trinity of Coventre, and John de Preston and Robert Shippeley, brothers of the same Guild, and Margery Cookseye and Agnes the widow of Richard Clerk, sisters of the same Guild, for the aid and sustentacion of the guild; the grant and livery being made in accordance with Letters Patent of Licence of Henry IV. of February 16 *an.* 10, granted to the said William Broke, John Broke and John Barbour, for that purpose.

Lease of the "Bannepece" by the Prior and Convent of Coventre.

1 Henry V. [1413–4].—Lease for life, at a yearly rent of ten pence of a field called Bannepece, lying near the church of St. Nicholas of Coventre, by Richard Crosseby, Prior of the cathedral church and the Convent of the same, to John Whiteley, chaplain, of Coventre.

Lease of Shops in Bailey Lane.

1417.—Lease for twenty years, at a yearly rent of thirty-six shillings, of two shops in Bailey Lane with chambers over them and two chambers under them, by the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the B. V. M. and St. John Bapt. to John Hornby, girdler.

Cottages to be rebuilt with Timber and Tiles.

4 Henry V. [1416–7].—Lease for twenty-four years of divers cottages in Bishop's Street, at a yearly rent of six shillings, granted by John Gothe the Master and the brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c., to David Oswestre, carpenter, on condition that within two years the said David will rebuild the said cottages with fit timber and tiles.

Lease of the Tenter-Ground in Hill Street.

8 Henry V. [1420–1].—Lease for ten years, at a yearly rent of forty-six shillings and eight pence, of a croft and all the "tentoria" placed therein, and three small houses in Hulle Street, by John Prentys, chaplain, to William Owtred and John Owtred and their assigns; one condition of the lease being that the said tenants "sustentabunt omnia dicta tentoria videlicet in peciis meremii vocatis *lates* et clavis ferreis," and "omnia meremia dictis tentoriis incumbencia exhibebunt et invenient."

The largeness of the rent paid for this tenter-ground and its small houses and "tentoria" by tenants who were bound to do all the needful repairs at their own charges, may indicate both that the ground was extensive and that the local manufacture of cloth was a flourishing industry.

Lease granted by the Prior and Convent.

1 Henry VI. [1422–3].—Lease for lives in survivorship, at a yearly rent of fifty-three shillings and four pence, of a tenement in Attorhale in Sowe with meadows and pastures in Buydynge Haylyll and other appurtenances in Sowe and Wykyn, &c., by the Prior and convent of the church of the B. Mary of Coventre to Thomas Colyns and . . . his wife.

Provision for Celebration of an Anniversary in St. Michael's Church.

2 Henry VI. [1423–4].—Enfeoffment and lease for ever to the Mayor and Community of the City of Coventre of a messuage in Erlstrete, by William Babyngton, Chief Justice of the King's Common Bench, and William Botener of Withibroke, feoffee of Agnes Whittechirche, widow of William Whittechirche late a citizen of Coventre, on condition that the said Mayor and Community celebrate yearly the anniversary of the said William Whittechirche and of William Palmer and of the aforesaide Agnes Whittechirche, in the church of St. Michael, at a cost and in a manner set forth in the deed.

NOTE.—Error in Pagination.

The folios of the following 16 pages should read 145–160, not 143–158 as printed.

The House Called "the Drapery."

1425.—Lease for thirty years, at a yearly rent of eight shillings, of one half of a house called the Drapery, by the Master and brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c., to William Cortenale, draper.

The Great Drapery of Coventre.

4 Henry VI. [1425–6].—Lease for thirty years, at a yearly rental of six shillings and eight pence, of one half-bay in the Great Drapery ("unam dimidiam bayam in Magna Draperia Coventre") by John Leder the Master and the brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c. to John Willughby, draper.

John Alen, "Passonger."

10 Henry VI. [1431–2].—Lease for twenty years, at a yearly rent of five marks, of a messuage in Bayllylane in Coventre, by Laurence Cook the Master and the brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c. to John Alen of Coventre, "passonger."

Lease for Ninety-nine Years to the Prior and Convent.

1437.—Lease for ninety-nine years, at a yearly rent of sixpence, of four "seliones" of land lying together in the field near Coventre called "le Hylmylfeld," by Robert Schyp-ley, Richard Beton and William Radeclyff, feoffees of the lands and tenements of John Schypeley, son of the aforesaid Robert Schypeley, to the Prior and Convent of the Cathedral Church of St. Mary.

A Tenement of the Abbot and Convent of Combe in Much Park Street.

32 Henry VI. [1453–4].—Lease for twelve years, at a yearly rent of fifty-three shillings and four pence, of a messuage situated "in quodam vico vocato Mustheparkstrete inter tenementum Abbatis et Conventus ecclesie beate Marie de Comba ex una parte, et terram Willelmi Betley ex alia parte," by Richard Boyes the Master and the brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity to Richard Nores, hosier.

The street, here called "Mustheparkstrete," is still called indifferently "Much Park Street" and "Greater Park Street," the former of these names being the one that appears on the walls of the street.

Selot's Chantry in Smythford Street.

33 Henry VI. [1454–5].—Gift of a messuage in Smythforde Street, lying between Seloteschauntery on the one part and the tenement of William Melody on the other part, by William Saunders, deyster, and his wife Agnes, to John Colchester, Robert Lawe, clerk, Simon Byrches and John Broun, lynendraper, and their heirs and assigns.

Provision for Celebration of an Obit in the Church of Chesterfield.

1471, January 2nd.—Indenture of an agreement between Richard Wood, Master of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, the B. V. M. St. J. Bapt. and St. Katherine, and Richard Braytoft and John Pynchebek brethren, and Agnes Boys and Agnes Fyssher sisters, of the same Guild, of the one part, and Rafe Calcrofte, Master, John Thomson and John Swerde brethren, and Alice Coke and Margery Carr sisters, of the Guild of St. Mary of Chesterfelde of the other part, for the yearly celebration of an obit in the church of Chesterfeld "for the soules of Master Thomas Chesterfeld, his fadir, his modyr and John Braunston," and for the souls of other deceased persons.

Inn Sign of "The Cardinal's Hat."

11 Edward IV. [1471–2].—Gift by Dame Isabella, late the wife of Walter Langley esq., of her inn in Coventre called "Cardinalis Hatt," near the inn called "Le Crown in placea vocata Brodeyatys," to her son John Langley.

Agreement to abide by an Award of Arbitrators.

12 Edward IV., May 21st [1472].—Indenture, sealed with the seal of the Mayor and community of Coventre, of an agreement whereby William Briscowe *alias* Bristowe of the one part, and the Mayor and community of the said city of the other part, agreed to "abyde the rule ordinaunce and jugement of John Cateby sergeaunt of the lawe and William Cumberford arbitratours indifferently chosen betwixt the said parties of and upon the title and possession of alle maner landes and comyn of pasture beyng in variaunce between them," and also agreed "that the said William Briscowe and one assigned for the seid Meir and cominalte shall ride to London at VIII^{vas} of Trinite next comyng to labur and desire the seid John Cateby and William Cumberford to take the labur of the premises upon them."

Unfortunately the parties to this indenture did not hold steadily to their purpose of determining by arbitration the controversy respecting their right and title in lands and common of pasture on Whitley Common. The arrangement having fallen through, the Corporation and the Squire of Whitley contended fiercely and bitterly with angry words and blows, public riot and costly litigation.

The official clerks, who in the 15th century copied records touching the owner of the estate usually styled Whitley Manor (albeit its alleged manorial quality was questioned and even denied by many persons), used to spell his surname in different ways, *e.g.*, Briscowe, Briscoe, Bristowe, Bristoe.

Award of Arbitrators for ending the aforesaid Controversy.

13 Edward IV., July 3rd [1473].—Award of Arbitrators for determining the variance and controversy between the Mayor and community of Coventre of the one part and William Briscoe of Whitley of the other part, respecting right and title in certain lands in Whitley, running in these words: "This indenture made the thridde day of July the xiiith yer of King Edward the Fourth witnesseth

that wher variaunce contravercie and debate was had moved and steryd betwene the Meir and cominalte of the Citee of Coventre on that on partie, and William Briscoe on that othir partie, for the right title and possession of certen land lying in Whittley bitwene the water of Shirborne and the Skynners buttes in lenght on that on partie and on the othir partie from the same Skynners buttes unto a meadowe callid Medowmore on the othir partie, and in brede bitwene the Kyngis park on the on partie and the highweye leying from Coventre toward London on that othir partie, and also for a parcelle of land bitwene Alderfordpece and Whittleycros parcelle of the same lond, and also for comyn of pasture which the said William Briscowe claimeth to have for his bestis in alle the feldis on both sides of the said wey from the seid lond called Buggyngfeld upon Wridesden or Stokefeld upon Wridesden and Skinners buttes unto the towne of Coventre, wherein the seid Meir and cominalte have used to have their comyn of pasture from the fest of Seynt Peter the Advincle (*sic*) called Lammas unto the fest of the Purificacion of our Lady: Wherupon John Fissher of Coventre, sherman, and John Emmottes of the same, capper, be bounden in an obligacion of an hundreth mark to the said William Briscowe for the said Meir and cominalte, upon condicion that the said Meir and cominalte shuld abide the arbitrement ordinaunce and dome of George Burneby esquier, John Hathewike, Thomas Cotes and Robert Otter arbitrours chosen indifferently bitwene the seid parties, and the seid William Briscowe was bounden in an nothir obligacion of an hundred mark to the seid John Fissher and John Emmottis upon the same condicion. Wherupon the said arbitrours the dey and yer aboveseid awarded ordeigned and demyd that aswell the seid William Briscowe as the seid Meir and cominalte shalbe nounsued in all such accions as either partie have ayenst othir in any of the Kyngis Courtis, and also the seid William Briscowe shall relees and suertie of the peas ayed (?) ayenst John Wildenrise of Coventre, and also the seid arbitrours awarded ordeigned and demyd that the seid William Briscoe shall have and enjoy to hym his heirez and his assignez for evermore without any interupcion of the seid Meir and cominalte and their successours alle such lond lieing in Whittley from the water of Shirborne unto Buggyngfeld upon Wridesden in Whittley aboveseid, which hath byn enclosed bifor this tyme, and also the said William shall have to hym his heirez and assignez for evermore without any interupcion of the seid Meir and cominalte and their successours alle such lond in Whittley callid Buggyngfeld or Stokefeld upon Wrisdeden as is aboveseid, lieng betwene the seid lond enclosed and the seid Skynners buttes in lenght and in brede bitwene the said Kyngis park and the said highwey ledyng from Coventre toward London, with the forseid parcell of the same Buggyngfeld lyend from Whittlecros to Alderfordpece, savyng the right of alle othir parsones pretendyng eny title in eny parcelle of the same lond if eny right they have. And farthermore the seid arbitrours awarded ordeigned and demyd that the seid Meir and cominalte shall have only every yer comyn of pasture with their bestis from Lammas unto Candlemas in all the said lond if it be falowe or ellis unsowen, and if it be sowen as soone as the corne is caried away. And also the same arbitrours awarded ordeyned and demyd that the seid William Briscowe his heirs and his assignez shalbe comyn and entre comyn with the said Meir and cominalte and their successours for evirmore withoute eny interuption of the same Meir and cominalte and their successours as is aforeseid, in like wise and fourme in alle such lond and feldis as the seid Meir and cominaltie have comyn in bitwene the said Skynners buttes and Buggungfeld upon Wridesden aforeseid and the towne of Coventre on

both sydes the seid highwey, aftir the rate of the seid lond lyeng bitwene the water of Shirborne aboveseid and the seid Skynners buttes and feld aforseid, and also aftir the rate of a felde callid Alderfordpece and after the rate of a parcel of lond lyeng from Alderfordpece to Whittleycros aboveseid. Also the said arbitrours awarded ordeigned and demyd that the said Meir and cominalte and everych of them shalbe quyte and discharged ayenst the said William Briscowe his heirez and his executours for alle maner of trespacez and offences doon by theym or eny of theym to the said William Briscowe for eny interesse or occupacion of eny of the said lond afor the date of this present writyng. In wittnes whereof to this partie of this Indenture remayning with the said William Briscowe the seid arbitrours haye sette their sealis the day and yer aboveseid."

Attached to this writing on vellum is the above-mentioned Recognizance of John Fyssher and John Emottes, dated on 27th June, 18 Edward IV., whereby they acknowledge themselves to be bound to the said William Briscowe in the sum of one hundred marks sterling to be paid to him or his attorney in the quindene of St. John the Baptist next.

Together with this Indenture, there is also preserved in the Muniment Room, the counterpart "remaynyng with the said Meir."

An exemplification of this award, dated 18 Nov. 14 Edw. IV., is noted among the MSS. in Class IV., *infra;* and of a verdict of a jury on the dispute. Other records are also in Class VI., *infra.*

Lease granted by the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c. to William Paynell, "Whittewer."

16 Edward IV. [1476–7].—Lease for twelve years, at a yearly rent of forty-six shillings and eight pence, of a messuage with a garden in Sponne Street, by Richard Braytoft the Master and the brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c., to William Paynell, "whittewer."

Hall of St. Nicholas and Hospital of St. John the Baptist.

20 Edward IV. [1480–1].—Quitclaim and Confirmation, by Henry Grey, esquire, son of Edward Grey, late Lord de Ferrars de Groby, and by Henry Boteler, feoffee of William Burgeys, cousin and heir of Ralph Hunt, to Richard Colyns, in respect to a toft or piece of land in Coventre, lying as to length in Smythfordstreete, and as to its breadth between the tenement of the Guild of Corpus Christi and St. Nicholas and the tenement of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, and extending from the same street to the Hall of the aforesaid Guild called St. Nicholas Hall.

The Guild-yard within Bayly Lane.

5 Henry VII., June 20th [1490].—Lease for twenty years, at a yearly rent of fifty-five shillings, of two tenements in Coventre, the one being in Baylylane, and the other in the "Gylyard" within Baylylane, by Henry Kebull, Master of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c., with the assent of the brethren and sisters of the said Guild, to William Haddon, mercer.

Lease of a Tenement in Erlesmyll Lane.

11 Henry VII. [1495–6].—Lease for twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of thirteen shillings and fourpence, of a tenement with appurtenances in Erlesmyll Lane, by Richard Colman, Master of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c., with the assent of the brethren and sisters of the said Guild, to Thomas Mooselle and Richard Booth, "sherman."

Award of Arbitrators between the Prior and Convent and the City of Coventre, in respect to Contributions to the Murage of the City.

14 Henry VII. [1498–9].—Award of Arbitrators—to wit, of William Bishop of Lincoln, and John Bishop of Coventre and Lichfield, "and other of the Counsell lerned of Arthur the first begoten sonne of King Henry VIIth, Prince of Wales . . . indifferently chosen and named between Richard, Priour of the Monastery of Saint Mary in the Citie of Coventre, and the Convent of the same place on the one partie, and Thomas Bonde, Maire, and Commoinaltie of the same Citie on the other partie"—for determining discord and variance respecting a yearly sum of 10*l.*, which the said Mayor and community claimed of the said Prior and Convent for the murage of the city. The Arbitrators ordain that from the date of their award "the said Priour and Convent and their successors shall bere and pay ratably with the citesyns of the Citie to the forseid murage and making of the saide walles about the said citie unto such tyme as the same walles be fully made up and accomplished, that is to say yearly x*li* at the fest of All Sayntes, when the said citesens and all other having londes and tenementes within the same citie shall be proportionably charged after the rate of the quantite of their said londes and tenements to the same murage, provided always that, if any of the citizens or other personnes that have londes and tenementes within the same be hereafter rated and assessed to a lesse somme of money, then the Priour and Convent and their successours shalbe in like forme lesse rated."

Provision for such an Obit as was "Comenly usid for Men of Worshipe" in Coventre.

12 Henry VIII., October 6th [1520].—Indenture of an agreement between Thomas White, Master of the Guild of Corpus Christi and St. Nicholas and the brethren and sisters of the same Guild of the first part, and Letyse the widow and executrix of the testament of John Saunders late of Coventre, capper and alderman, and John Clerk, grocer, and Nicholas Heynes, capper, overseers of the same testament, of the second part, and John Bonde, mayor, and the community of the City of Coventre of the third part, and Thomas Waren the Master and the brethren and sisters of the Guild of the Holy Trinity, &c., of the fourth part: Whereby the said Master brethren and sisters of the aforesaid Guild of Corpus Christi covenant that they will "yerely for ever on the second day of the moneth of August cause an Obite to be kept in the parishe churche of St. Mighell in the said Cite for the soules of the said John Saunders and Letyse, Agnes and Alice his wiffes, as is comenly usid for men of worshipe in the seid Cite, with *dirige* over nyghte and masse of the morowe with x preistes iii clerks and ii children, every prieste to have iii*d.*, every clerke ii*d.* and every child a peny."

Assignment of the Manor Place by Chellesmore Dame Elizabeth Swillyngton.

21 Henry VIII., March 6th [1530].—Assignment to Roger Wigston and Thomas Try, esquires, by Elizabeth Swillyngton, widow and executrix of the late Rauf Swillyngton esq., of all her interest in the Manor or Lordship of Chillesmore in the county of the city of Coventre, under Letters Patent dated on 7th June, 16 Henry VIII., whereby the said King granted for twenty-one years, at a yearly rental of 15*l.*, the said Manor and Lordship (with exceptions and reservations) to Geffrey Whalley, prior of the monastery of Ulvescroft and to the convent of the same place, to the use of Rauf Swillyngton for twenty-one years beginning at Michaelmas next after the date of the said Letters Patent; it being stipulated in the said assignment that the said Elizabeth shall have and enjoy to herself and her assigns during all the said term "the Manor Place of Chellesmore with all mottes and waters on every side the said manor-place, and all buyldings and gardynes and litle groundes within the same mottes, and the grounde without the mote on the southe side of the said manor-place within the said park, that is to sey along the freers gardyns or orchard walle after the mote unto the Pynlok gate, as it hath of olde tyme bene dyched and severed, with hegebet from tyme to tyme to be taken within the said parke for the defence of the same grounde, and to enclose and kepe severall or otherwyse to use the same at the pleasure of the said Elizabeth during the said term, and also a litell close with all the grounde without the mote and est syde of the said manor place towards the citie, except only the course and recourse with cataill to the pynloke."

William Marler, Gentleman, Son and Heir of Richard Marler, Grocer.

28 Henry VIII., June 16th [1536].—Gift by William Marler of the city of Coventrie, gentleman, son and heir of Richard Marler of the same city, grocer, of all his messuages, lands and tenements &c. in Olde Fylonghley, co. Warwick, to William Holbache the elder of Fylonghley, yeoman, and Thomas Holbache the elder of Olde Filonghley, yeoman.

Mortgage of William Marler's Land and Tenements in Old Filonghley.

28 Henry VIII., November 26th [1536].—Sale by William Marler, of Coventre, gentleman, to William Holbach the elder and Thomas Holbach the elder, both of Filonghley co, Warwick, yeomen, of his messuage, lands and tenements &c. in Old Filonghley under condition that, if he should pay, or cause to be paid, to the said William and Thomas Holbache, or either of them, the sum of forty-six pounds at any time before the Feast of St. Michael in A.D. 1540, the said sale shall be void.

The Mote House in Coundon co. Warwick.

30 Henry VIII., May 31st [1538].—Lease for fourscore years, at a yearly rent of 17*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* by Thomas Camswell the Prior of the monastery of our Lady of Coventre and the Convent of the same to

Myghell Bolde, of the said city, yeoman, of a messuage with appurtenances in Coundon co. Warwick "called the Mothouse," with an orchard, a garden, a croft, a field, and divers closes and pieces of land, and also all the "tythes of woole and lambs with all rightes, dutyes, proffittes . . . . to them in the tythe and rights of the monasterie and of the churches of Herdwyke and Priores Marston in the countye of Warwick yerely growyng and renewyng and beyng with the parysshes of Herdwyke and Prioures Marston."

Agreement for regulating the Manufacture of Cromple Lyste and Ulterfyne Cloths.

10 Elizabeth, March 22nd [1568].—Indenture of an agreement, between Queen Elizabeth of the one part and the Mayor bailiffs and commoinaltie of Coventre of the other part: for placing under good government and conditions the manufacture of Cromple Lyste and Ulterfyne or Utterfyne cloths, recently introduced into Coventre from Armentiers in Flanders, and for regulating the trade in the same cloths with rules and penalties, in furtherance of the concessions made by Her Majesty to the people of Coventre by Letters Patent of the same date (as noticed above under the head of the Charters).

Lease of a Tower in the South Wall of the City of Coventre.

11 Elizabeth, October 10th [1569].—Deed of sale and assignment, whereby Sir Edward Saunders, of Weston-under-Wetherley, co. Warwick knt., one of the King's (*sic*) Serjeants-at-Law and Recorder of Coventre, assigned to Thomas Dudley of Coventre, gentleman, Edward Damport of the same city, pewterer, and four other persons of the same city, the remainder of a lease for eighty years of a Tower, standing in the south part of the wall of the said city, and also the remainder of a lease for ninety-six years of a close called Little Pudingcrofte adjoining the same south wall, which leases were both granted to the said Sir Edward Saunders by the Mayor bailiffs and community of Coventre.

Grant of the Manor of Stoke &c. to the Mayor and Community, for the Relief of the Poor and the Maintenance of Bablake Hospital.

30 Elizabeth, March 10th [1588].—Agreement made between John Horne of Stoke in the county of the city of Coventrey, gentleman, and his son and heir-apparent Reginald Horne, of the one part, and the Mayor bailiffs and community of the city of Coventrey, of the other part, whereby, in consideration of a sum of 80*l.* paid to them, and for the relief of the poor of the said city, and for the repair and maintenance of a hospital called Bablake within the same city, the said John Horne and Reginald Horne granted and sold for ever all the lordship and manor of Stoke aforesaid, with all the messuages, rights, privileges and appurtenances of the same manor, to the aforesaid Mayor bailiffs and community: with an indented Schedule of "the Chiefe Rentes, parcel of the said Manor of Stoke" attached to the Indenture.

Establishment of a House of Correction in Coventre.

37 Elizabeth, August 13th [1595].—Deed of sale and conveyance, made in consideration of a payment of forty marks, by Barnabie Holbache of Younge Fillonghlie co. Warwick, yeoman, and William Holbache son of the said Barnabie, of the manor of Olde Fillonghlie co. Warwick, and the common and waste grounds called the Chapell Greene, and the stange or water-pond thereunto adjoining, and Newhaie Greene, and thirty acres upon Corely Moore &c., and divers chief rents, to the Mayor bailiffs and community of Coventre, to hold the same to them and their successors forever "to and for the provision sustentacion and maintenaunce of the House of Correction in the said citie of Coventre and for stocks and stoores to the uses and according to the Statutes of the Eighteenth and Five-and-Thirtieth yeres" of the Queen.

A Tenement lately a Pageant-House in Gosford Street.

44 Elizabeth, June 1st [1602].—Lease for sixty-one years, by Richard Butler, John Herringe, Michell Smithe and Ralfe Dunnington, Masters and wardens of the Company of Mercers of Coventre, of a messuage or tenement "lately being a pagent house" in Gosford "Street," to Richard Bankes, "yoman," his executors and assigns, at a yearly rent of twenty-seven shillings.

Tithes of "Bradokes Waste" of the Rectory of St. Michael.

3 James I., March 9th [1606].—Lease for twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of thirty-three shillings and four pence, by the Mayor bailiffs and commonalty of Coventre to Samuel . . . of Stoke, gentleman, of all "ther tithes of corn, hey and herbage, wood, wool, lambe and all other titheable thinges growynge renewynge and cominge in all those groundes as they be now severed called and knowne by the name of Bradokes Waste lying and beyng within the titheable places of the Rectorie of St. Michaell and Trinitie within the city of Coventre."

Agreement touching the Conduits.

9 Charles I., August 20th [1633].—Indenture of an agreement, between Bartholomew Bewley "of Coventrey plummer," of the one part, and the Mayor bailiffs and commonaltie of the said city, of the other part, opening thus, "Whereas long and of ancient times there hath beene amongst others two conduits in the said citie, whereof one is commonly called the Bull Conduit and the other is called Croscheaping Conduit, which conduits are or have beene usuallie served and fedd with water by a maine pipe of leade laid and placed from the spring or fountaine called Conduit Head lying and being in the countie of the said Citie unto the conduits aforesaid, from and betweene which two conduits there is and hath bene anciently a pipe of lead laid and placed in the ground for conveying and bringing of the said spring water from the one conduit to the other, and whereas by agreement made betweene the said parties the said Bartholomew Bewley did in August last undertake and promise at his owne charges to take up the said pipe of lead betweene the said conduit called the Bull Conduit and the other conduit in the same citie called the Croscheaping Conduit, and to cast and make such a sufficient and substantial new cast pipe of lead of as great large

and full a proportion as well for boare and thickness and weight as should in every respect be answerable to one pece of cast pipe of leade then brought to remaine for a patterne in the Counsell House of the said city" &c. By the indenture, which sets forth in these terms the source from which the two principal conduits of the citie drew their chief supply of water, Bartholomew Bewley, besides undertaking to renew the pipe running between the same conduits, also undertook amongst other things, for a consideration and under conditions set forth in the indenture, to keep the conduits and public water-pipes of the said city in repair for thirty-one years.

THE LADY TOWER, FORMERLY PART OF THE TOWN WALL LATELY DEMOLISHED BY ORDER OF CHARLES THE SECOND.

22 Charles II., February 8th [1670].—Indenture of an agreement, between the Mayor bailiffs and community of the city of Coventry of the one part and Sir John Hales of the same city, baronet, of the other part, whereby the said Mayor bailiffs and community granted to the said Sir John Hales all the stone of the Lady Tower, formerly part of the Town Wall of the said city without Newgate, "which wall by the King's commaund was lately demolished," and also granted to the same Sir John Hales, his heirs and assigns, for a term of ninety nine years, a parcel of ground lying and adjoining the same Town Wall without Newgate, and also the ground where such part of the Town Wall stood; the said grant of stone and lease of ground being made by the said Corporation in consideration of £5 paid to them by the said Sir John Hales by way of fine, and also in consideration of a yearly rent of five shillings to be paid by the same grantee his heirs and assigns to the said Mayor bailiffs and community, throughout the said term of ninety-nine years. Attached to this Indenture is "A scheme of the demised premises."

IV. *Exemplifications of Curial Records, Writs and Letters of Commission, to the number of thirteen writings.*

Together with other writings that need not be noticed in the present report, the MSS. of this group comprise the following :—

CONTROVERSY BETWEEN WILLIAM BRISCOE AND THE MAYOR AND COMMUNITY OF COVENTRE.

14 Edward IV., November 18th [1474].—Exemplification of the enrolment of an Indenture made on 3rd July of 13 Edward IV. between the Mayor and Community of Coventre of the one part and William Briscoe *alias* Bristoe of the same city of the other part, as entered under the latter date, *supra*.

VERDICT OF JURORS ON THE SAME DISPUTE.

15 Edward IV., November 28th [1475].—Exemplification of the Record (amongst the Pleas at Westminster in Trinity Term, 15 Edward IV.) of the proceedings in the cause of the Mayor and Community of Coventre *versus* William Briscowe, of Coventre, gentleman, closing with the verdict of jurors that the Mayor and Community of the said city unjustly disseised the said William of twenty-eight acres of arable land and three acres of heath lying under the park of Cheldesmore from the buttes called the Skynners' Buttes to the water at

Shirborn, and that the said William did not enter with violence and arms on the said land called "the comengrownd," and did not disseise the said Mayor and community of the said land.

Other documents relating to this dispute will be found under the next headings, in Classes V. and VI.

Former Possessions of the Prior and Convent of Coventre in the Wodende.

36 Elizabeth, October 30th [1594].—Exemplification under the seal of the Exchequer of entries in a book formerly belonging to the Priory of Coventre, and remaining in the custody of the Remembrancer of the Exchequer: Certifying that the Prior and Convent of Coventre had in the Wodende a tenement or messuage, and also had as appurtenances to the same messuage two fields called the Knydinges, extending in one direction to the waste of the lordship of Stoke, and also a waste called Bagot Waste lying between the waste of Robert de Stoke and the way toward Leicestre, and also a toft near the Wenchfeldes, and a croft lying in Wyken and called Wykyncroft.

Writs to Sheriffs and Others Co. Warwick, for providing Ships, &c. for the King's Service.

11 Charles I., August 4th [1635].—Writ addressed to the Sheriff of the county of Warwick, the Mayor bailiffs and community of the city of Coventre, and the Sheriffs of the county of the same city, and the Bailiffs of the town of Brymingham, and the Warden and society of the royal town of Sutton Coldfield co. Warwick, and the Bailiff aldermen and chief burgesses of Stratford-upon-Avon co. Warwick, and all the worthy men of the said city, boroughs, and members thereof, and in the county of the said city, and in the towns of Warwick, Alcester and Coleshill, and all the other towns, villages, hamlets and places in the said county: Requiring them to provide at their own charges a ship of war of four hundred tons, manned with one hundred and sixty able and expert seamen, and duly equipped with victuals, arms and munitions of war, and to cause the same ship to be brought, this side the first day of next March, to the port of Portsmouth, thence to proceed in the company of the said King's ships and the ships of others his faithful subjects in an expedition to fight and destroy the robbers and pirates of the sea, Mahometan enemies of the Christian name, and others, who are harassing and despoiling and plundering the ships, goods and merchandise of the king's subjects and friends, and have carried the men of the same ships into most wretched captivity.

Also, three other writs for shipping of war for the same purpose, dated respectively August 12th 12 Charles I., 19th September 13 Charles I., and 5th November 14 Charles I.

Appointment of Deputy Lieutenants of Coventre.

35 Charles II., September 22nd [1683].—Commission, signed and sealed by Robert Earl of Sunderland, Lord Lieutenant of the county of Warwick, appointing the Mayor of Coventre for the time being, Sir Thomas Norton bart., Sir Arthur Caley and Sir Robert Townesend knts., John Dugdale, Basil Fielding and Henry Greene esqrs., Nathanael Harriman, Thomas King, Henry Smith and Richard Haywood,

gentlemen, to be Deputy Lieutenants for and in the city of Coventry and the county of the same city. Also, new Letters of Commission to the same effect, dated on 20th June, 1 James II. [1685] by the same Lord Lieutenant.

V. *Rolls and Files, to the number of eighteen.*

These writings comprise the following matters :—

Suit of Robert de Morley *versus* the Prior of Coventre.

Edward III. Detached membranes of a Roll (French and Latin), comprising a copy of the Record of proceedings in Robert de Morley's suit at York in 11 Edward III. [1337] against the Prior of Coventre, for the recovery of a thousand acres of arable land, ten acres of meadow, twenty acres of pasture and twelve acres of wood in Sowe.

Statute Merchant Rolls for Recognizance of Debts.

(*a*) 15 Richard II.—3 Henry V.—Remains of a Roll; the Clerk of the Statute throughout the term of years covered by these remaining membranes was John Ofchirch.

(*b*) *Temp.* Henry VI.—Four membranes of another roll, to wit, for the 8th, 12th, 13th and 34th years of Henry the Sixth.

(*c*) 15 Henry VIII.—3 James II.—A collection of detached membranes of similar rolls, the membranes being for the years 15 and 26 Henry VIII., 29, 31, 33 and 45 Elizabeth, 1 James I., 33, 34, 35 and 36 Charles II., and 1, 2 and 3 James II.

(*d*) 26 Henry VIII.—29 Charles II.—A great and heavy File of one hundred and eighteen Rolls, upon the same number of membranes, for four years of Henry VIII., two years of Edward VI., five years of Mary, thirty-six years of Elizabeth, twenty-two years of James I., twenty-three years of Charles I., the eleven years of the Commonwealth Period and fifteen years of the reign of Charles the Second.

The membranes of this imperfect series of Statute Merchant Rolls appear to have been flattened out and put together on a single file by a comparatively modern worker upon the Coventry records.

The Warwickshire antiquary who would edit this large body of Statute Merchant Rolls would discover curious pieces of information, touching the personal history of notable individuals, and could hardly fail to throw light on the social condition and financial vicissitudes of one of the most interesting cities of England.

Furniture and Ornaments of the Guild of the Holy Trinity.

20 Henry VI. [1441–2].—Roll (a single indented membrane) of the Inventory of the tapestry, needlework, seats of estate, registers, silver and silver-gilt plate, napery (diapered and plain) and other chattels, belonging to the Guild of the Holy Trinity of Coventre, in the custody of William Barynton, "officiarium dicte Guilde, custodientem jocalia dicte Gilde subscripta."

Incident in the Dispute between William Briscowe and the Citizens of Coventre.

11 Edward IV. [1471–2].—Copy of the Record of the Proceedings in the cause of William Pere *v.* Briscowe (otherwise spelt Bristowe)

of Coventre, gentleman, and William White of Whitley co. Coventre, husbandman, charged by the said William Pere with assaulting him and breaking into his close, &c. on 4th July, 10 Edward IV.

Warrant for levying Distresses on Tenants of the Manor of Cheilsmore.

14 James I. [1616–7].—Roll-Schedule of arrears of rent due to the King from tenants of the manor of Cheilsmore; with a warrant at its foot, signed by Fulke Grevyll, for levying distresses for the payment, and for arresting those tenants who refuse to pay.

VI. *Miscellaneous Matters.*

The writings, described under this heading in the Catalogue of the Charters and Manuscripts, comprise the following records:—

Large Packet of "Final Concords."

Edward III.—Charles II.—Packet of eighty Final Concords from the time of Edward III. to that of Charles II.

The Great Riot on Whitley Common.

10 Edward IV. [1470].—Large membrance, displaying on one of its its sides copies of five several writings, to wit,

(*a*) The Bill of Complaint made to the King by William Briscowe (otherwise spelt Bristowe), who describes himself as having been "seisyd of the maners of Whittley with the appurtenances," against William Saunders mayor of the said city, and William Pere and Robert Orly citizens of the said cite, for having in the said King's 9th year "caused, stered, provokyd, and commaundyd many and dyvers rotys [riotous?] personys of the seid cite, that is for to sey Henre Dabby, carpenter, Nicolaus Kent, sadeler, William Drew, wolman, and John Bordale, smyth, with many other rotys personeys of the said cite onto them accompeneyed, to the number of *vc.* personys and more, to your seid besechere oonknown, in manere of warre arrayed, that is to sey [with] byllys, launcegayes, jakkys, salettys, bowes, arrowes, and with mattokys, spadeys, sholles and axes, which by ther commaundment provocacion and steryng in souche riotis wyse came to the seid iiii closseys of your seid besecher and the other landeys parcel of his seid maner, and the same tyme caste downe his gatys and his dyches, cutte down his hegeys and his trees, the whiche dyches and hegeys have be ther continued and useyd tyme [out] of mynde, and money grete okeys beyng growyng in the hegeys and dyches &c." Praying the said King to grant his Letters of Privy Seale to be directed to the said William Saunders late mayor of Coventre and William Pere, commanding them to appear before the Privy Council, to answer for the matters charged against them by the complainant.

(*b*) "The Answere of William Saunders, William Pere and John Gange, citizennys of the Citie of Coventre to the Bill sued ageyns them by William Briscowe."

(*c*) "The Replicacion of William Briscowe to the answere of William Saunders, William Pere and John Gange."

(*d*) "The Rejoindre of William Saunders, William Pere and John Gange to the Replicacion of William Briscowe."

(*e*.) The King's Writ, dated at Westminster on 18th July of his 10th year, and directed to the Prior of Mastoke, Sir Richard Byngam knt. and Thomas Lyttelton: requiring them to make enquiry, and by the examination of trustworthy witnesses to ascertain the truth and justices of the matters in dispute, as set forth in the said Bill, Answer, Replication and Rejoinder, and to make a return respecting the same, together with the examinations of the witnesses, to the King and his Council.

Affidavit respecting the Discord between William Briscowe and the City of Coventre.

12 Edward IV. May 24th [1472].—The Sworn Declaration of thirty men of various ages between 40 and 80 years inclusive, protesting against the trouble William Briscowe of Whitley has caused and is causing to the Mayor and community of Coventre by "claymyng the common grounde that lieth betweixt Baronfelde without the newe yate under the Kynges Park stretchyng to Whitby broke called Shirburne afferming hit to be his own lande," and certifying that the said claim is "open wrong." In conclusion, they say that, in consideration of their seals being little known, they desired "the reverend fadirs John Abbot of Kenelworth, Alexander Abbot of Combe, Richard Abbot of Myryvale, John Abbot of Stonley, Symond Mountfort knyght, Robert Stretley knyght and William Hugford, in whose presence" they have sworn upon a book to the truth of their evidence, "to set their seals to these presents."

As this affidavit is sealed by all the thirty makers of the declaration, as well as by the four Abbots, two knights and one other person, who bore testimony to the credibility of the declarants, the instrument is fringed at the bottom with a remarkable show of seals.

The late Religious House of the Whitefriars in Coventre.

4 and 5 Philip and Mary [1557–8].—Copy (certified by William Berners and Thomas Mildmay) of the original Warrant, addressed by the King and Queen to their Commissioners William Barnes, Thomas Mildemay and John Wyseman, for the acquittance and discharge of the Mayor Aldermen and inhabitants of Coventrie, in respect to their action in taking and detaining the two bells and lead of "the late religious hous of White Friers in the said citie of Coventrie," which house "at the tyme of late dissolucion of Abbies, Priories, Monasteries, Chauntries and other religious houses within this realme of Englande . . . . was suppressed and pulled downe to the great defacing of the said citie," when "the tymber, tilles and other ornaments apperteyning to the said church . . . . was (*sic*) sold to the said persones."

The City of Coventry and St. John's College, Oxford.

7 Eliz. 1565—1681.—File of yearly Receipts from 7 Eliz. to 1681 in acknowledgment of a sum of £40, paid yearly by the Mayor and Community of Coventre to the President and Fellows of the College of St. John the Baptist in Oxford.

Address to Queen Elizabeth from Loyal Citizens.

26 Elizabeth, November 14th [1584].—Duplicate of the Address offered to Queen Elizabeth by 201 of Her Majesty's loyal and faithful citizens of Coventre, who declare their abhorrence of the wicked designs and practices whereby certain of her enemies seek to deprive her of her crown and life, and who inform Her Highness that they have formed themselves into an association, each member of which is bound by his oath to do his utmost to frustrate the detestable efforts of her said enemies, to discover their plots, and "pursue as well by force of arms as by all other means of revenge, warranted by the laws of this realme, alle manner of persones of what estate soever they shalbe, and their abetters, that shall attempt by any act, counsaile or consent, anything that shall tend to the harme of her Majestie's royal person." In the last line of their address, the two hundred and one members of the Society declare themselves "most reddie to accept and admitt any other hereafter to this our Societie and Association," for the maintenance of the Queen's throne, the preservation of her life, the welfare of her kingdom, and the confusion of her enemies. The address is followed on the same parchment by the wafer-seals and signatures of the "ten scoore and one" members of the Society. Each of the seals is placed between the signatory's christian and surname, and besides being impressed upon the parchment is attached to it by a thread.

Papers &c. of the Company of Carpenters, Tilers, and Pinners.

16th to 19th century.—Collection of miscellaneous writings,—to wit, Petitions to the Mayor of Coventre, Bonds, Docquet Books, Freemen's Certificates &c., including a noteworthy Order of General Sessions of the Peace respecting a colourable and fraudulent apprenticeship—formerly belonging to the Company of "the Craftes of Carpynters, Tilers and Pinners."

The City of Coventry and the Duchy of Cornwall.

1620–1642.—Packet of receipts, in acknowledgment of half-yearly payments of 33*s*., made by the Mayor, bailiffs, and comynaltie of the City of Coventre to successive Receivers-General of the Duchy of Cornwall, by way of rent due from the said Corporation for the mansion house, park, mill, &c. of the manor of Cheilesmore.

Hawkesbury Coal Mines.

1621–1664.—Large packet of leases, granted by the Mayor and Corporation in the years 1621, 1631, 1633, 1664 of lands in and about Hawkesbury in the parish of Sowe to divers tenants, who were empowered by their respective leases to dig raise and sell coals commonly called "ston-coale, sea-coale or pit-coale" from the "coale mynes, delphes and veynes of coale" in the said land.

These indentures should be examined by any writer who would produce a perfect account of the mines and mineral industries of the Midland counties.

Thomas Denne's Draft Plea on a *quo Warranto*.

13 Charles I., 1637, February 12th.—Draft plea upon a *Quo Warranto* prepared for the city of Coventry on 255 sheets of paper by Thomas Denne, and "perused and approved" on the aforesaid day "as good in lawe and a sufficient answer" by the same Counsel: With copy of the *Quo Warranto*. Also, in the same packet, an Exemplification of "The Discharge in the Exchequer of the *Quo Warranto*, 1637."

Lord Chancellor Macclesfield's Decree respecting Sir Thomas White's Charity Estate.

11 George I. [1724–5].—Writ (on eleven large membranes) for the execution of a Decree, made by Lord Chancellor Macclesfield, ordering a reconveyance of Sir Thomas White's Charity Estate to the Mayor bailiffs and commonalty of the city of Coventry, together with all the said Corporation's rights in the said estate. Opening with a statement of the particulars of the grant of lands, tenements and rents, &c., formerly belonging to Guilds and Chantries in the city of Coventry, made to the said Corporation 19th July, 34 Henry VIII.

As the Letters Patent of Henry the Eighth's grant have passed from the hands of the Corporation, the student of the Coventry muniments should make a careful examination of the earlier portion of this lengthy document.

Bill and Papers of the Eighteenth Century, touching Cheylesmore Park and Coventry Charities.

1747–1780.—A collection of bills and documents touching Cheylesmore Park, and papers touching divers of the Coventry Charities.

Papers touching the Frankland Foundation at Catherine Hall, Cambridge.

1831.—Briefs, Affidavits, and other papers, in the matter of the Frankland Fellowship at Catherine Hall in the University of Cambridge. Founded by Mr. Frankland, for a person educated at Coventry school.

Ten Volumes of Dr. Troughton's Drawings.

19th Century.—These volumes of sketches of the picturesque antiquities of Coventry by one of the most notable of the city's recent worthies must not be left unnoticed. Dr. Troughton, an eminent physician in his native city of Coventry, was also an amateur artist and a zealous antiquary, who spent all his leisure gained by habitual early rising in delineating the antiquities of the place.

The new Muniment Room of St. Mary's Hall is not only a beautiful work of architecture, but in respect to space, light, ventilation and

furniture is so fine an example of what muniment rooms should be that it might well be regarded as a model for imitation in like cases.

In conclusion, the present reporter may observe that, whilst he was reducing the Coventry MSS. to order at the charges of the Town Council, he made a catalogue of them for the convenience of the custodians and the searchers of the multifarious evidences. Printed copies of this classified catalogue, which contains many matters that are unnoticed here, may be obtained from the Assistant-Curator of the muniments.

JOHN CORDY JEAFFRESON.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE EARL OF RADNOR, AT LONGFORD CASTLE, SALISBURY.

I. A fine folio volume, entitled "Registrum Hungerfordianum," containing copies of deeds, etc. relating to the Hungerfords and their possessions from the reign of John to that of Edward IV. The documents transcribed are arranged according to the places to which they refer, in the following order :—

Marston, Highworth, and Over and Nether Stratton, co. Wilts.
Cricklade, Bramshaw, &c. co. Wilts.
Britford, co. Wilts.
Trevego, co. Cornwall.
Winterbourne Stoke, co. Wilts.
St. Martin's in the Fields, and Charing Cross, co. Middlesex.
Mildenhall, co. Wilts.
Rushall, co. Wilts.
Chippenham, co. Wilts.
Heytesbury and Chippenham charities.
Luxfield prebend.
Upton Scudamore, Warminster and Rowleigh, alias Wittenham, cos. Wilts and Somerset.
Hungerford, Sandon and Charlton, cos. Berks and Wilts.
Britford, co. Wilts.
Heytesbury, co. Wilts.
Teffont Evias and Dalewood.
Wellow manor and hundred, co. Somerset.
Farleigh Mountford, co. Somerset.
Wellow.
Penheal, co. Cornwall.
Kilmersdon, co. Somerset.
Little Cheverell, co. Wilts.
Selwood forest, co. Somerset.
Farleigh Sloo and Buttesford, co. Somerset.
Farleigh Castle chantry, co. Somerset. (Translations of the documents relating to this chantry are given in Jackson's "Guide to Farley Hungerford.")

II. Fragment of a smaller Hungerford Chartulary of the fifteenth century.

III. A collection of original deeds and other documents of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries relating to the Hungerford family, many of which have very fine seals appended. Among them are the following :—

1416, August 28.—The '*Holigost*' on the Seine. Licence granted by John, Duke of Bedford, Earl of Richmond and Kendal, and Constable of England, of his own motion and against their desire, to Walter Hungerford, knight, and John Skillyng, esquire, to depart from his company and go home for the recovery of their healths.
French. Fragment of seal.

1433, April 1.—Farley Hungerford. Letters of Walter, Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury and of Homet, appointing his son Sir Robert Hungerford, knight, Sir John Stourton, knight, and four others "to entrete, appoynte, and finally conclude with John of Vendosme, knyght, vidasme of Charters, oure prisonere, and with his frenddes and servaunts for the finance, rauncon, and deliverance of oure said prisonere."

Signature and fragment of seal.

1449, July 24.—Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit, Walterus Hungerford, miles, dominus de Hungerford de Heytesbury et de Homet, Robertus Hungerford, miles, filius et heres apparens ejusdem Walteri, ac Robertus Hungerford, dominus de Molyns, filius et heres apparens predicti Roberti filii predicti Walteri, salutem in Domino. Noveritis nos manumisisse, remisisse, relaxasse et per presentes liberasse Willelmum Smelyn, nativum nostrum pertinentem ad manerium nostrum de Heytesbury in comitatu Wilts, cum tota sequela sua imposterum sive in futuro procreanda cum totis bonis facultatibus et catallis suis, et ipsum Willelmum per presentes liberum fecisse, et ab omni jugo et servitute naevitatis, villenagii sive bondagii plenius liberasse per presentes, ita quod nec nos nec heredes nostri nec aliquis alius per nos sive nomine nostro in predictum Willelmum aliquid juris, clamei, tituli, actionis sive demandi racione premissorum habere, exigere, clamare, vel vendicare poterimus, set per presentes de ipso Willelmo imperpetuum sumus exclusi. In cujus rei testimonium sigilla nostra apposuimus. Datum in castro de Farley Hungerford, vicesimo quarto die mensis Julii anno regni regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie vicesimo septimo."

Signed "Hungerford" and "R. H. le Molyns."—*Fragments of three seals.*

1527, March 22.—Agreement between Sir William Sandys, knight, Lord Sandys, Lord Chamberlain, and Walter Hungerford esquire, son and heir of Edward Hungerford knight, late deceased, for a marriage between the latter and Alice, one of the daughters of the former, before the feast of the Ascension. Walter Hungerford undertakes to settle manors and lands to the yearly value of 100*l.* Lord Sandys undertakes to pay 600 marks, viz. 400 at the day of marriage, and 200 at Michaelmas following. He also undertakes to find meat and drink for such as shall happen to be at the marriage. He further undertakes to "gyve to the saide Water for the daye of the saide maryage one gowne of crymson velwet and one other gowne of blacke velwet, one jacket of blacke velwet and one other jacket of blacke satten, one dublet of crymson satten and one other dublet of blacke satten," and to give to his daughter for the day of the said marriage "one gowne of crymson velwet and one other gowne of blacke velwet, one kirtyll of crymson sattyn and one other of blacke satten, and all other ornaments as to the bed of the said Alice for the said daye of mariage shall appertayne."

IV. Rentals, bailiffs' accounts, and ancient deeds, relating to places mostly near Folkestone, co. Kent:—

Ackhanger, Ackridge, Alkham, Broadmead, Bourne, Buckland, Cheriton, Clynton, Comb, Cliff, Capel [le Ferne], Dommert, Elham, Folkestone, Flaggs, Halton, Hawkinge, Hougham, Houghton, Hythe, Hopton, Ingles, Luddenham, Moorhall, Norton, Newington, Romney marsh, Sandgate, Swingfield, Terlingham, Walton, Wolverton.

V. Court Rolls:—

Folkestone hundred, Terlingham, Walton, Wolverton, Halton, Ackhanger, Newington, Belhouse, Dommert.

VI.—A volume containing original letters :—

[1536?] Nov. 4.—Thomas Crumwell to Lord Hungerford of Haytesbery. "Thiese shalbe to advertise the same that I ha[ve] resceyved your lettres with the deposicions and confessions of certayne persones and a boke wherin was writen amonges other thynges certayne prophecies, accordyng to your lettres. And for your good procedynges in that behalfe ye have assuredly deserved of the Kynges Highnes right harty and condigne thankes. And wher ye have commetted Richard Sole and Richard Spicer to prison ye have done very well therin, requyryng you they may remayne ther in saff and sure custodie and kepyng untill suche tyme as ye shalbe further advertised of the Kynges pleasure in that behalfe." Wyndesore, 4 Nov. *Signed.*

[1537?]—Thomas Crumwell to Lord Hungerford of Haytesbury.—"Wher as before this tyme upon your advertisement of the mysdemeanour of Sir Thomas Beese, clerke, vicar of Southstoke in the county of Somerset, I required you to commyt him to warde to the next gaole. And forasmoche as the said vicar hathe sufficient sureties bounde for hym that he shalbe furthecommyng to answer to soche thynges as shalbe layd agaynst hym on the Kynges behalfe, I require you, cailing unto you somme other discrete persone, beyng one of the Kynges Justices of the Peax to exammyne the truthe of the matier whiche is layde agaynst the sayd vicar with the circumstaunces therof by all the ways and meanes ye convenyently may; and to advertise me therof when ye shall have oportunyte therto. Requiryng you farther upon the receipt herof to cause the sayd vicar to be put at his libertie and to be delivered out of prison."—Stebenhithe, 6 July. *Signed.*

[1537,] October 12, Hampton Court.—The Queen (Jane Seymour) to Lord Hungerford.—"By the Queene. Right trustie and welbiloved we grete youe well. And forasmuche as by the inestimable goodnes and grace of Almighty God we be delivred and brought in child bed of a prince conceyved in moost laufull matrimoney betwene my lord the Kynges Majesty and us, doubting not but that, for the love and affection which ye beare unto us and to the commyn wealth of this hole realme, the knoweledge thereof shuld be joyous and glad tydinges unto youe, we have thought good to certifie youe of the same, to thintent ye might not only rendre unto God condigne thankes and praise for soo gret a benifite but also continually pray for the long contynuaunce and preservacion of the same here in this lief, to the honour of God, joye and pleasyr of my lord the King and us and the universall weale, quiet and tranquillitye of this hole realme. Yevyn undir our Signet, at my Lordes manour of Hamptoncourte the xij day of Octobre."

[1536-40, probably 1538,] April 7, St. James.—Thomas Crumwell to Lord Hungerford.—"Thies shalbe to advertise you that havyng receved your lettres of the 27th of Marche, I declared the same unto the Kinges Highnes who takes the same very thankefully and in good parte. Willing and desiring you further to examyne aswell the same William Yrishe as all others that were present att the speking of the wordes by you in your sayd lettres mencioned. Upon what grounde or occasion, to what intent and effect, what moved hym therunto, what tyme and place and under what manerand affect he spake those wordes, with as moche diligence and maturitie as ye maye. And that doon to certifie me of your said examinacion with spede, wherupon ye shalbe further adcertayned of the Kinges Highnes pleasure howe the said person shalbe further ordered in that behalf, praying you in the meane tyme to see the same kept in sure warde accordingly.—*Signed.*

[1538,] September 21, Penshurst.—Thomas Crumwell to Lord Hungerford.—"By your lettres of the 16th of this present delivered unto me by this berer your servaunt, I perceyve the cancred malice of Richard Henly agenst. the Kinges supreme auctorite for the usurped power of the grete ydole of Rome I commende moche your good diligence and vigilancy in your proceding used in that behalf, Requiring you that at the next commyng in that countrey of the Justices of Assise ye cause him to be indicted and further processe to be made agenst hym, so that he may be, to the terrible exemple of like presumptuouse and trayterouse persons, punished according to his demerites as the lawe right and justice do require. As touching [the] proctor of the Charthuse whereof ye be stuarde, my mynde was never by my lettres nor otherwise expressed that he shuld contynewe there onles he be of such fidilite to the house in the good administracon of his office and of such honest conversacon both towardes them and other as apperteyneth. And in cas he be so or if he hath ben otherwise and woll ernestly emende, I wold be glad he myght contynewe there according to myn intercession bifore made for hym. If he be not so honestly disposed, I woll in nowise support hym but rather wold be sory that he shuld hynder the house or contynewe therein to the slaunder of the countrey. Concerning your mater betwene my lord of Huntingdon and you, I shalbe content at all tymes to employe meself ernestly to bring you togeder, and to be a meane that both your titles may be shewed and loked upon, and so to assaye to my power that the right title maye prevaile and you to remayne good freendes at the last. At his next cummyng hither, I woll be in hande with hym for the same in such wise that I trust ye shal have your right conserved as to right and conscience shal apparteyne and as ye shal have cause to be contented."
Signed.

[1538?] November 11. London.—Thomas Crumwell to Lord Hungerford. "Whereas by your lettres of the vjth of this present sent unto me by this berer, your servaunt, I do perceave that nowe lately you have committed to prison a prest called Sir Richard Henry for certain traiterouse and sediciouse wordes spoken by him, as more at large appeareth by a bill of articles sent unto me with your saied lettres; Thiese shalbe to signifie unto you the Kinges Highnes pleasour is that the sayd prest do still remayn in warde untill the commyng downe of the Judges in Eyre who shall at the next Assise there to be holden by speciall commission here and examyne the saied articles and so determyne the same as justice shall require in that bihalf. And as concerninge the matier in variaunce betwixt you and my lorde of Huntington, you shall undrestand that oone of the arbitrators elected and chosen to here and examyne the same is departed this worlde, yet nevertheles I doubte not but that I with the rest of the saied arbitratours shall at laysour and tyme convenient take such ordre and directions therin as shall be to your good satisfaction."

[1539,] July. Oatlands.—Thomas Crumwell to Lord Hungerford of Haytesbery. "Havyng receyved your letters wherin ye write of the mysdemeanor of one Sir Nicholas Balam prest, late monk of Henton, wherin myne advise shalbe that ye shall commyt him to the gaole till the commyng of the Justices of Assise into those parties and to declare the matier unto theym with the circumstaunces therof to thentent the[y] may order that [m]at[ter] according to their discrecions and as n
with the Kin[ges] law[e]s equite and justice I ha[ve per]used your
bo deposicions taken agaynst [Hen]ry Champ[ernon ? t]o
be delivered to Mr. Chauncel[lor] of the Aug[ment]acions, bicause the

mater apper[tei]neth to tha[t cour]t, to thentent he may procede t[herin] as the ca[se sh]all require. Furthermore I h[ave] writen u[nto M]aister Arundell if any injury hathe byn done unto you, to see you satisfied for the same as [a]mite and conscience shall require, [and] I doubt [not he] will do therin accordyngly. [And to]uching your [req]uest for purchas of the manor of He[nton] and other [land]es of the same I shalbe glad to fu[rther] you therin when the tyme shall serve."

Signed.

[1540.] Feb. 9. London.—Thomas Crumwell to Lord Hungerford of Haytesburye. "Thies be for asmoche as the Kinges Majestie hathe ben enformed that certaine lycences, foundacions and other wrytynges belongyng unto the late priory of Charterhous Henton and graunted by Thomas Horton, clothier, and other hathe ben ymbeysled and conveyd away by certaine persons. The Kinges Majesties pleasure is that ye, calling Dame Mary Horton wydow, Thomas Horton, William Byrde clerke, Richard Davis, and Sir William Furber clerke, before you shall examyne theim and every of theym by vertue of an othe to be admynestred to theym by you of and uppon the premysses with the circumstaunces therof by all the wayes and meanes ye can or may excogitate and devise. And to advertise me of that ye shall fynd and knowe therin with all convenyent spede, to thentent I may cause suche order and direction to be had and taken in that behalf as the case shall requyre. Faile ye not thus to do as the Kinges trust and expectacion ys in you."—*Signed.*

April 9.—The Earl of Hertford to Lord Hungerford.

I am informed that you pretend a title to a chantry in Chippenham of which you are trying to procure a surrender by the incumbent. The patronage of it belongs to me and you have no interest therein as I will prove save by an advowson the circumstances of which I leave till our meeting. If you persist and wade further in the matter, I doubt not you shall take the fall.

From my house near London.

1615. October 31. Whitehall.—The Lords of the Council to the Mayors of Ports, Rear Admirals, Searchers, &c.

Pass to permit Edward Hungerford Esq. to travel with two men beyond the seas for three years for his better experience and knowledge in the languages provided he repair not to Rome without his Majesty's leave.

1638, Nov. 9.—The Lords of the Council to the high sheriff of Wilts. His majesty having sent his writ to the high sheriffs of Wilts and Gloucestershire and to the mayors and head officers of the corporate towns within the same counties, to provide one ship of 350 tons besides tonnage, to be furnished with 140 men, tackle, munition, victual and other necessaries to be set forth for the safeguard of the seas at the charge of the said counties and corporate towns; and having commanded them to assess the contributions to the same within fifty days of date of receipt, the sheriff is required to order the business according to the following instructions which are to be communicated to the mayors and head officers of the corporate towns of Wilts.

1. The sheriff to be only of the quorum, but in case of unequal or unfair rating carried by a plurality of votes the sheriff to have power to balance that inequality, so as not to be overruled by the major votes to the prejudice of the county which is the greater body. The sheriff withal not using this power to the favour of the county against the towns or of one town against another.

2. That you meet with the sheriff and head officers of Gloucestershire to assess the two counties respectively. And for your information we find that one ship manned and furnished as above will be 4,200*l.* whereof we think Wilts should bear 2,200*l.* and Gloucestershire 2,000*l.* And in the county of Wilts we consider New Sarum should bear 90*l.* the borough and town of Marlborough 25*l.* the borough of Devizes £18 the borough of Chippenham 12*l.* and the borough of Welton 2*l.* and the rest of the county the residue of the 2,200*l.*

These rates we wish observed rather than have any difference of opinion among you which would retard the service. But if for greater equality and from more local knowledge, the major part of you agree to a different rating and the sheriff assent, we are content your rating shall stand.

3. Having agreed on the assessment, you should subdivide the same and make the particular assessments in such sort as other common payments upon the county or corporate towns are most usually subdivided and assessed, viz. the sheriff to divide the whole charge on the county into hundreds, lathes or other divisions, and those into parishes and towns, and the towns and parishes must be rated by the houses and lands lying within each parish or towns, as is accustomed in other common payments payable by them respectively.

And whereas his majesty takes notice that in former assessments, notwithstanding the express order from our letters to ease the poor, there have been assessed towards this service poor cottagers and others who have nothing to live on but their daily work, which can only have been done to raise clamour and of prejudice against this service, his Majesty's command is that no persons be assessed unless they be known to have estates and money or goods or other means of livelihood than daily labour. When you find such poor men taxed you are to take it off. Further, rich men occupying little or no land and who as an ordinary land scot, would pay little or nothing, are to be rated according to their worth and ability. Such rating to be used for the easing of the poor or of such as are overcharged with children or debts. The like course to be in the corporate towns. And herein you are to have more than ordinary care and regard whereby to prevent complaints of inequality in the assessments, wherewith we were much troubled last year.

4. For more easy and better proceeding herein, the sheriff, after having rated the several hundreds lathes and divisions of the county, is to send forth warrants to the constables, requiring them to call unto them some of the most discreet and sufficient men of every parish town or tithing, so as to assess the hundred most equally, certifying the same to you with all speed, which assessment you, the sheriff, are to sign if you approve thereof. If for inequality you alter the assessment, you are to sign it, keeping a true copy, and order the speedy levying of the same by the constables of hundreds, petty constables, and others usually so employed.

If any one returned to you are refusing or neglecting payment, you are to execute the writ upon them, causing distress to be taken of them and to be sold for payment of their assessments, rendering back the overplus. The mayors and head officers to do the like for the corporate towns, observing the usual distributions by wards parishes and otherwise.

In the said assessment both sheriff and mayors are to express particularly how much every clergyman is rated for his mere ecclesiastical possessions and what for his temporal and personal estate.

The whole assessment is to be certified to the council within one month of its being made.

5. Concerning the assessment of the clergy, his Majesty is resolved to maintain their privileges as under his progenitors, but as it has not been sufficiently shown to us what privileges have been aforetime allowed them in payments of this nature, for the present you are to assess them like the rest of his majesty's subjects but with due respect to their persons and calling, not suffering any inequalities or pressure to be put upon them. If any clergyman find himself justly grieved, upon complaint to his diocesan or Chancellor you with some of them shall hear the complaint, and relieve him if there be cause. If the complaint is altogether frivolous and causeless, the diocesan to punish the complainant.

6. Any constables bailiffs or other officers refusing or neglecting their duties to be bound over to answer their neglect at the board, and in case they decline to give such good bond you are to commit them until they give bond or perform their duties; you taking special care in the meantime of the due leyying as required of you, and by such instruments as in the default of the constables and ordinary officers you like best.

7. You are to frequently call for an accompt from the constables, officers and others, and in case of refractory or dilatory persons you are presently without delay or respect to proceed roundly with them according to his majesty's writ, and not defer meddling with them to the last or until others have paid, as was done by some sheriffs in former years, whereby all the burden and trouble was cast upon the end of the year and those that were refractory gained time above the well affected.

Lastly you are to accomplish this service with speed, that the money may be timely paid in and the fleet furnished by the date expressed in the writ. For assure yourself that whatsoever you shall leave unlevied during your shrievalty will not be cast on your successor, as in former years some sheriffs expected and therefore retarded the service. Such arrears to be levied by yourself after the end of your year by warrant from your successor, or such other covenant as shall be found most behoveful.

All moneys collected to be paid by you from time to time at London to the Treasurer of the Navy for the time being.

You shall also from time to time call on the mayors and chief magistrates of the corporations to pay similarly to the treasurer or to you to be included in your payments.—*Seventeen signatures.*

1638, November 30. Whitehall.—The Lords of the Council to the present High Sheriff of Wilts and the High Sheriff for 1637.

Upon a review of the accounts for ship money levied on the writs for 1637, in spite of our exhortations, we find an arrear of 205*l.* 8*s.* By his Majesty's special command, we require from the sheriff of last year upon pain of severe proceeding to be had against you to pay to Sir William Russell K^{t}, Treasurer of the Navy, what you have collected and not paid in and to assess and levy the residue by distress or otherwise as by the said writ of 1637. For which purpose we require and authorise you the present High Sheriff to give warrant to your predecessor for that purpose, or to such meet persons as he shall present to you to be employed by him in that service from whom only his Majesty doth expect an accompt for his own year. Said arrears to be collected and paid in by the beginning of Candlemas term. In case of default, you

are to attend this board on the second Friday of Candlemas term, to give an account why the same is not levied and paid in.

1639, April 30. Whitehall.—The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts. On consideration of the slow coming in of ship money this year and of the proceedings of sheriffs in former years, we find it a great error that they laid the work upon the constables, and further delayed to levy distress on the refractory till late in the year, when it was most troublesome to levy.

To prevent this in you, we refer you to the instructions formerly received from this board. If any constable prove negligent, you shall perform the service in your own person or by competent deputy, and be careful not to defer executing his Majesty's writ on the refractory. Negligent constables shall be punished upon complaint from you. Lastly you are to pay what money you levy to the Treasurer of the Navy once every fortnight.

1639, December 1. Whitehall.—The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts. By his Majesty's writ, you are to provide one ship of 560 tons besides tonnage to be furnished with men tackle munition victual and necessaries, assessing the county and corporate towns for the same by the advice of the mayors and officers.

The charge of a ship of that burden so manned and furnished will be 7000*l.* We conceive that New Sarum may well bear 192*l.* the borough and town of Marlborough 60*l.* the borough of Devizes 50*l.* the borough of Chippenham 30*l.* the borough of Wilton 5*l.* The residue to be assessed upon the rest of the county.

As you shall herein perform your duty with diligence you shall not only receive favour and thanks from his Majesty but an allowance of 6*d.* in the pound at the end of your performance of this service.

[A long paper of instructions to the sheriff and verbatim with that of 9 Nov. 1638, with the above noted variations.]

1639–40, January 12.—The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts. Sheriffs are to use all possible diligence in the speedy levying of ship money, in accordance with the writs issued in November last, more than ordinary diligence to hasten his fleet to sea being desirable this year. All money received to be paid to the Treasurer of the Navy by the 20 [? Febru]ary next. An account of the sheriff's proceedings in the matter to be given to the Council at the same time.

1639, February 21. Whitehall.—The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts for 1638. There is an arrear of shipmoney charged upon the county during the year of your shrievalty, for the levying and bringing in of which you have been several times called on by letters of this board, yet we find your negligence therein is still the same. If all arrears of your shrievalty are not levied and paid in by the end of the first week of next term, it is already resolved and declared by the board, and directions are accordingly given to the attorney, to proceed against you by information in the Star Chamber.

1639–40, March 5. Whitehall.—The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts. Complaining of neglect of the previous commands of January 12. Require sheriff either to provide a vessel as prescribed by the writ by the first of April next or otherwise by the same time to levy and pay in to the Treasurer of the Navy the whole sum required in that behalf. Failing this, it is resolved and ordered by the board, his Majesty being present in Council, that a round and

exemplary proceeding shall be had against you according to your demerits.

1640, May 11. Whitehall.--The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts. You have been frequently importuned to levy and pay in ship money. His Majesty's occasions for defence of the kingdom are more rather than less pressing. These frequent admonitions add weight to your default and contempt. If you pay not in at least one half of the money due from the county by the last of this month, and the other half by the 24th of June next, you must expect to feel a smart punishment.

1640. June 6. Whitehall.--The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts. We have desired the Lord Chamberlain of the Household and the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Wilts to impart some particulars to you concerning his Majesty's service. By his Majesty's express command, you are not to fail to meet his Lordship at Marlborough on Tuesday night next June 9th, where you shall understand more particularly the cause hereof.

Postscript.—You are also to take especial care that the High Constables of the several Hundreds attend the Lord Lieutenant at Marlborough with all speed for his further directions.

Endorsed.—" Hast, hast, post hast. Post at peril. For his Majesty's especial service.

[With notes of postage thus]—Charing Cross 1 o'clock p.m. Basingstoke 2 in the afternoon. Andover past 6 in the afternoon.

1640, May 27. Whitehall.--The King to the High Sheriff of Wilts. By the writ of 1639, you had to provide from Wiltshire a ship of 560 tons, or the equivalent charge thereof 7000*l.* by the first of April last which you have hitherto neglected. You are at once to levy the said 7000*l.* or so much of it as is unpaid and deliver it to the Treasurer of the Navy in accordance with instructions of 11 May and this upon peril of incurring the uttermost of such forfeitures and punishments as by the laws may be inflicted upon you for so high contempt and misdemeanour.

1640, October 21.--The Lords of the Council to the High Sheriff of Wilts. On a review of the ship money accounts for Wilts, we find much more money has been levied than you have paid in to the Treasurer of the Navy on the writ of 1639. You are forthwith to pay in the same and further to recover from the collectors all sums in hand returning to us the names of such collectors as refuse to pay to you or otherwise attending this board yourself to answer your neglect at your peril.

1640, June 6. Whitehall.—The Earl of Pembroke to John Duke of Lake, Esq. High Sheriff of Wilts. You are to attend me at Marlborough on Tuesday next the 9th instant at the latest as I myself intend to be at Runsbney on Monday. You are there to receive and put in execution such directions as I shall give you for the composing of the present disorders which have arisen in Wilts on the levying of the soldiers and the raising of coal and conduct moneys for this northern expedition.

1644, October 17. The King to the Mayor and Aldermen of Salisbury.—" Whereas wee are thus farre advanced with our Army, having by God's great providence and assistance freed the Westerne parts of this our kingdome from the tyranny and oppression of the Rebells and left our good people therein in a peaceable condition, whereby wee have

received evident testimonyes of their good affection and inclination to the advancement of our service by their free and voluntary contributions and loanes of money, which in proportion wee doe expect from you. And therefore wee doe hereby will and require you forthwith to assemble togeather and by assesse or any other wayes to rayse and provide within this Citty upon the inhabitants thereof the full somme of five hundred pounds, and to pay the same without delay tomorrow morning by sixe of the clocke unto our trusty and welbeloved servant John Ashburnham esq. our Treasurer at warr for the necessary use and supply of our Army. Herein wee are well assured you will bee so active as that wee may not fayle of the somme required, it being very little in proportion to what wee have received from other places of equal ability with this. So Wee bid you farewell, this 17th October 1644."

Signed by Edward Walker, *and by* Charles I.

1673–4, February 19, Lakham. J. Montagu to Edward Hungerford at Hungerford house in the Strand. I desired of my cousin Johnson an account of Sir Samuel Morland's pump and described to him mine, which is thus : a pipe or barrel as in other pumps in which a spindle is placed having a screw about it at the bottom. The quick turning of this screw brings up the water with ease. I drew the invention simply for use on my own estate. As to the public concern in the matter and in the grant of privilege which it appears parliament is like to grant Sir Samuel, you can judge better than I.

1673–4, February 21, Lakham. J. Montagu to Giles Hungerford. I answered your last the same morning. As to Sir Samuel Morland's engine, I am not his rival. I desire only to have undisturbed use of my own lands for the benefit of my estate of that way of raising water which I have thought of and have a model of by me. I wrote to this effect to my cousin Johnson fearing Sir Samuel's method and mine might be alike, though I have not the least hint of what kind his invention is. As to the public concern you say there is an intention of excluding all other devices of the sort of Sir Samuel's. There will need a short act of parliament for this as no engine can be made which has not in it something of another. If you speak only of the principal fact of the invention the claim is reasonable. That device I have chanced upon may be as advantageous as his. It has its whole power in the force of a whirling or vertigenous motion, a principle which could be applied to many machines even for flying. I chanced upon it by considering of the nature of a screw and as to raising water by it had a hint from an ordinary experiment of turning water swiftly round in a glass, and by the observation of waterspouts. I neither know nor envy Sir Samuel Morland and write only to show you that parliament should be wary in things of this nature. It is a question whether it were better to pay projectors a sum down for inventions, as I am told they do in Holland rather than grant them sole use.

My wife and my mother send their services to you.

VII.—A History of Longford written by Mr. Pellatt, domestic chaplain to Lord Coleraine about 1670. Most of the materials are derived from printed sources, but the following extract seems to deserve quotation :—

Mem.—Lord Gorges sold Longford to Lord Coleraine.—However the said Lord Coleraine was content to sit down a great loser both by the dealing before mentioned, and by the unhappy times which immediately succeeded the era of his Longford purchase, for, after the

disbursement of 18000*l.* besides continual expenses for the trimming up of his lordship's new bargain, according to the kind opinion he had of it, his Lordship enjoyed it little above four years, by reason his Majesty thought fit to make a horse garrison thereof, and according to his Majesty's order it was given up by his Lordship in April 1644.

His Lordship having too great a family of young children (to abide with them amongst soldiers) and too much of his other estate under sequestration, because he remained in the King's quarters, was now thrust upon such a dilemma as to find it equally difficult to him both to stay at his beloved seat or to go from it, though there were nothing but trenches, rude soldiers, ruins and dangers left about it. However he affected the place so much and had already ventured so far concerning it, as that his Lordship was resolved not to go farther from his darling then like the damsel in the wilderness from hers, but keep within sight of it as long as was possible to view it not quite ruined, or to hope that it might be preserved though by a miracle of providence. Hereupon my Lord of Coleraine, with his great little family, got into an unspeakable small house at Burtford (then rented by his steward) and there they attended the fate of Longford, not without daily fears and dangers in respect of their own persons and people as of that place, for there were such continual quartering of soldiers, sometimes of one side and sometimes of the other, such frequent alarms and violences from both parties, that the hazards and troubles of those times were as monstrous as they are now unexpressible, and, thanks be to God, are not known amongst us. After the Lord of Coleraine had stayed as much to his prejudice as inconvenience (in so strait a place out of his own house yet to near it) (and out of zeal to his Majesty's service) endured the barbarous usage of the Governor, who kept most of his household stuff and the stock on the ground from his Lordship, which was all that my Lord had then left in the country wherewith to provide for his family. There was no tempting patience further then the next degree which his Lordship arrived at, and that was first to see his brewhouse and all that great and handsome range of out offices set on fire purposely, though happily saved from the flames and not quite ruined by them, next the curious pigeon house, and fair stables quite pulled down or unnecessarily burnt, upon a mere spiteful intent to dismantle the comeliness as well as strengths of the place, and then the leaden pipes and cisterns that conveyed the water from the pump house taken all away together with the building, the stone bridges to the house broken and the timber felled and everything so altered, as to make it another Samnium to be inquired after in the midst of itself. In the mean time, as the place was new modelling so it continued, expensive and costly now not more to his Lordship's peculiar revenue, then to all the neighbourhood while the garrison found the country work, that the country might be made to pay it contribution, the house was turned into a den of thieves, and his Lordship had no heart to look after it any longer, but getting leave of the King to go out of the west then the chief seat of the war his Lordship arrived with great difficulty at Totteridge in Hertfordshire, and with small hope that Longford should escape an utter ruin.

But it pleased God after the fatal battle at Naseby, that Oliver Cromweli in his triumphal passage, having taken in Basinghouse and Winchester Castle (marching towards the Devizes), thought fit to summon in Longford* by the way, and Longford not only escaped his

* If surrendered to him as soon as he had finished his battery in Pick Mead, against the garden front, Oct. 18, 1645.

fury, but was likely to have given a deserved bloody death to that too prosperous and sanguine tyrant. For while he with some few officers were viewing where they might best storm or batter the house, a shot from thence killed the very next man to Cromwell (being a captain lieutenant), and had done worthier execution had it took him off too, but Nemesis followed this Attila this *flagellum Dei*), with more leaden heels and reserved him for greater mischiefs. As perhaps his escaping so strangely before this place made the place likewise escape so strangely from destruction, since he left no marks of his flaming appearance behind him, only smoked out the nests of hornets which were hived within the walls, and had rather gulled their own party, then helped it by their company. For all this it fared with poor Longford no otherwise then with that Dæmoniack, who after it had been exorcised was quickly repossessed by viler devils then formerly haunted it, for instead of soldiers of fortune, and some honest cavaliers, there were put in by order of Parliament a knavish committee of clowns of neither fortune nor understanding, who first pillaged the house of whatsoever the former guests had left, or could be torn from doors, or walls, or windows, and then moved the Parliament that the house should be slighted for being a dangerous place.

It is true it never deserved ruin, more then for not tumbling down upon such villains, but since its *lares* were unwillingly deflowered by these ravishers, it was no more guilty then a virgin that is abused after her lodging is broken into, and so escaped according to her merits for (by a special proviso put in by a good neighbour and friend) it was excepted out of the number of those houses that were to be dismantled and pulled down for fear of future wars and garrisons.

After this (its greatest escape), it was cleared from the pretensions of some of the Lord Gorges' kinsmen, by the just payment of 2,000*l.* sterling to them from the present Right Honourable Richard, Lord Gorges, who worthily deserves an eulogy for doing that honour to his name and parent, as to pay moneys out of his own means rather then his Lord father should appear unjust.

As the storms of civil dissension broke away, and our days cleared up by degrees, my Lord Coleraine, having weathered so many difficult points both as to law and conscience as had greatly impoverished his estate (not only by the loss of great sums of money and chargeable law suits, but by his absence from his chief rents, his actual delinquency and sequestration, his being plundered both at Longford and Totteridge, and afterwards highly taxed and decimated for not taking covenants and engagements. After this, I say, his Lordship's desire and delight returned again for Longford, which for some years before he looked not to see again, but in rubbish, and then, like Nehemiah, he was impatient till he had begun a repair.

Revisiting this house (circa anno 1650) to see what his egregious tenants on both sides (agreed to prejudice him) had left behind, his Lordship was saluted with nothing but filthiness and desolation, except it were an infinite swarm of fleas, that pitched upon his white boot-hose, there was no other living creature left for him, who was forced to leave behind him (when he went out of the house) a gallant dairy of Dutch cows, a great flock of wethers, yards full of poultry, and barns stored with provisions, yet was he nobly satisfied, that (being his master and all true subjects had suffered so deeply) his condition was no worse, though I have often heard him say that he had lost 40,000*l.* sterling by the troublesome times, and had all his delights impared not less then his estate.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF ANDREW KINGSMILL, ESQ.

The manuscripts at Sydmonton Court consist almost exclusively of ancient deeds relating to places in Hampshire and Berkshire.

Litchfield, co. Hants.—Among the persons named are William de Echingham, knight, and Eva his wife, and Sir Edward de Sancto Johanne, 8 Edw. II.; Edward de Sancto Johanne, 10 Edw. II.; William de Sancto Johanne, 11 Edw. II.; Sir John Milns, rector of the church of Lydeschulv, 17 Edw. II.; John de Sent Johan and Edward de Sent Johan and Joan his wife, 39 Edw. III.; John de Sancto Johanne and Edward de Sancto Johanne, his kinsman, 43 Edw. III.; Sir Edward de Sancto Johanne, lord of Stopham, and Joan his wife, 48 Edw. III.; Edward, son of John de Sancto Johanne, 49 Edw. III.; William Knyth, rector of Ludshulve, 2 Hen. V.; William de Sancto Johanne, lord of Ludeshelf, 2 Hen. V.; John Hende, rector of Ludshulfe, 5 Hen. V.; John Pury, esquire, and Isabel his wife, 31 Hen. VI.; Richard Kyngesmyll and John his son, 21 Hen. VII.

Whitchurch, co. Hants.—Among the persons named are Sir John Persones, vicar of the church of Godeworth, 29 Edw. III.; John Kyngesmyll, serjeant-at-law, and Joan his wife, 13 Hen. VII.

Sonning and *Early*, co. Berks.—Among the persons named is John de Erle, late son and heir of Sir Bartholomew de Erle, knight, 11 Edw. II.

Hurst, co. Berks.—Among the persons named are Adam le Yonge of Berkham and Alice his wife, 21 Edw. I.; Adam, son of John de Kingesmille, 20 Edw. III.; Adam Kyngesmulle of Bercham and Elizabeth his wife and William their son, 23 Edw. III.; John Kyngesmell and William his son and Joan his wife, daughter of John Dyk, 15 Ric. II.; William Kyngesmyll, son and heir of John Kyngesmyll of Berkham, deceased, 7 Hen. V.; Richard Kyngesmyll, gentleman, 21 Hen. VII.

Barkham, co. Berks.—Among the persons named are William de Nevile, lord of Bercham, John Kyngesmull of Bercham; Adam his son and Elizabeth his wife, 11 Edw. III.; Richard Bernard of Erburghfeld, Christina his wife and Joan his daughter, A.D. 1384; Thomas Kyngesmyll, gentleman, son and heir of William Kyngesmyll of Bercham, deceased, and Richard Kyngesmyll, gentleman, his brother, 16 Edw. IV.

Settlement in prospect of a marriage between John Kyngesmyll, son and heir of Richard Kyngesmyll of Basingstoke, gentleman, and Joan daughter of John Gyffard of Ichyll co. Hants, 5 Hen. VII.

Licence from Richard, bishop of Winchester, to John Kyngesmyll and Joan his wife, of Frefolk, to have mass and other divine offices celebrated in a suitable place in their house or elsewhere in the diocese. 11 December 1501.

Contract for the roof of the church of Hartley Wintney, co. Hants, as follows :—

"Hec convencio facta inter dominam Johannam Bannebury, Priorissam domus de Wyntenay, et ejusdem loci conventus ex una parte, et Johannem Willam, carpenter, de Basyngstoke, et Willelmum Austyn, carpenter, de eadem, ex altera parte, testatur quod predicti Johannes et Willelmus fabricabunt, facient et de novo edificabunt unum tectum supra ecclesiam de Wynteney predicta, quod quidem tectum erit *Flatterove* et in eodem erunt ix trabes cum platis proporcionatis secundum longitudinem et latitudinem ecclesie *Playn werke*, et eciam de novo facient et edificabunt ibidem supra tectum unum campanile de quatuor postis cum *Flatterove*, infra certum tempus ita quod plene perficietur citra festum Sancte Marie Magdalene proxime sequentem post datam presencium, et eadem Priorissa serabit omnes tabilos ad idem pertinentes sumptibus suis propriis, et eadem Priorissa inveniet meremium sufficientem et succidet et cariabit ad certum locum ubi fabricabunt, ita quod non impediantur idem Johannes et Willelmus nec illorum servientes, et predicti Johannes et Willelmus percipient pro labore suo xxij libras Anglicane monete et unum porcum et unum multonem et unam gounam precii x^s vel x^s in denariis, et cum levaverint predictum tectum predicta Priorissa inveniet idem (*sic*) Johannem carpenter et sex homines in victualibus per septimanam, et predicta Priorissa inveniet cordas et machinas et propriis expensis vacuabit antiquum tectum, et parietes ad eandem (*sic*) pertinentes patere faciet, et idem Johannes et Willelmus percipient cum ceperint operare x libras et postmodum cum ceperint framare vj libras, deinde cum levaverint predictum tectum vj libras, et idem Johannes et Willelmus habebunt aysiamenta domus pro eis et servientibus suis, una cum diversis utensiliis ad parandum victum sibi et servientibus suis, et ad istas convenciones bene et fideliter observandas et componendas Willelmus Shyrefelde et Rogerus Richerd obligant se et quemlibet eorum heredes et executores suos eisdem Priorisse et conventui in xxij libris solvendis eisdem, et ex altera parte predicta Johanna Priorissa et ejusdem loci conventus obligant se et successores eisdem Willelmo Shyrefelde et Rogero Richard heredibus et assignatis suis in xxij libris solvendis. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus indenturis partes predicte sigilla sua apposuerunt. Datum apud Wynteney in festo exaltacionis Sancte Crucis anno regni regis Henrici Quinti post conquestum Anglie tercio." *Small fragment of seal.*

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The Commissioners think it probable that you may feel an interest in this object and be willing to assist in the attainment of it; and with that view they desire to lay before you an outline of the course which they usually follow.

If any nobleman or gentleman express his willingness to submit any unprinted book, or collection of documents in his possession or custody to the examination of the Commissioners, they will cause an inspection to be made by some competent person, and should the MSS. appear to come within the scope of their enquiry, a report containing copies or abstracts of them will be drawn up, printed, and submitted to the owner, with a view to obtaining his consent to the publication of the whole, or of such part of it as he may think fit, among the proceedings of the Commission, which are presented to Parliament every Session.

To avoid any possible apprehension that the examination of papers by the Commissioners may extend to title-deeds or documents of present legal value, positive instructions are given to every person who inspects MSS. on their behalf that nothing relating to the titles of existing owners is to be divulged, and that if in the course of his work any modern title-deeds or papers of a private character chance to come before him, they are to be instantly put aside, and are not to be examined or calendared under any pretence whatever.

The object of the Commission is solely the discovery of unknown historical and literary materials, and in all their proceedings the Commissioners will direct their attention to that object exclusively.

In practice it has been found more satisfactory, when the collection of manuscripts is a large one, for the inspector to make a selection therefrom at the place of deposit and to obtain the owner's consent to remove the selected papers to the Public Record Office in London, where they can be more fully dealt with, and where they are preserved with the same care as if they formed part of the muniments of the realm, during the term of their examination. Among the numerous owners of MSS. who have allowed their family papers of historical interest to be temporarily removed from their muniment rooms and lent to the Commissioners to facilitate the preparation of a report may be named: The Duke of Rutland, the Duke of Portland, the Marquess of Salisbury, the Marquess Townshend, the Marquess of Ailesbury, the Earl of Dartmouth, the Earl of Carlisle, the Earl of Lindsey, the Earl of Ancaster, the Earl of Lonsdale, Lord Braye, Lord Hothfield, Lord Kenyon, Mrs. Stopford Sackville, the Right Hon. F. J. Savile Foljambe, Mr. le Fleming, of Rydal, Mr. Leyborne Popham, of Littlecote, and Mr. Fortescue, of Dropmore.

The costs of inspections, reports and calendars, and the conveyance of documents, will be defrayed at the public expense, without any charge to owners.

The Commissioners will also, if so requested, give their advice as to the best means of repairing and preserving any papers or MSS. which may be in a state of decay, and are of historical or literary value.

The Commissioners will feel much obliged if you will communicate to them the names of any gentlemen who may be able and willing to assist in obtaining the objects for which this Commission has been issued.

J. J. Cartwright,
Secretary.

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